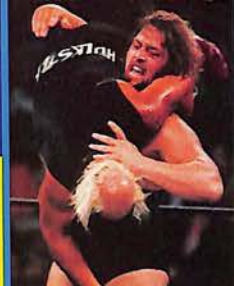


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INSIDE WRESTLING

AUGUST 1996

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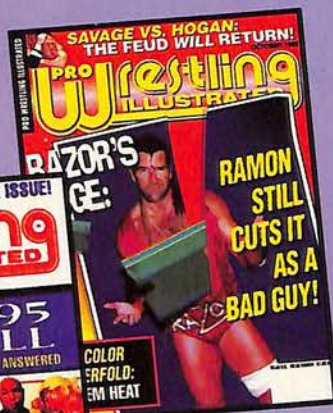
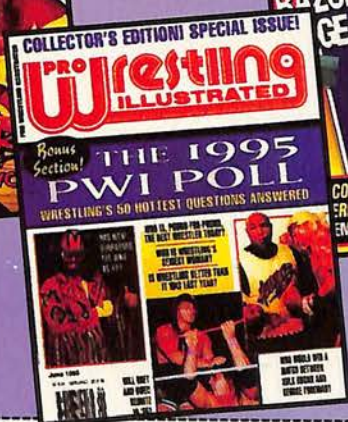
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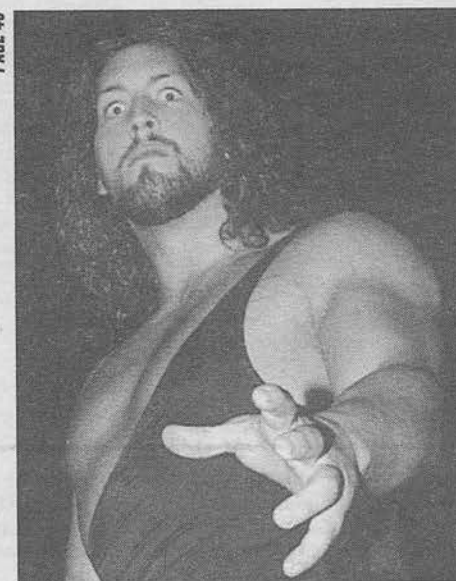
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(LEECHES NEED NOT APPLY!)  
He needs someone to guide him, not manipulate him



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July 9, 1996

# Sincerely Yours

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## SHOCKED BY BROCK

I am truly appalled by what Matt Brock wrote about Jake Roberts in "Plain Speaking" (May 1996). Mr.

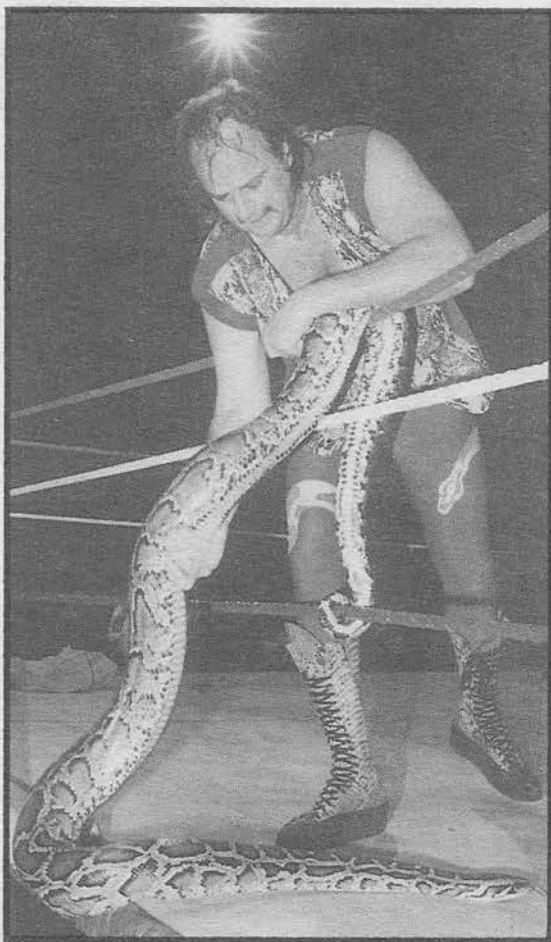
Brock wrote that, "I guess he found that life as an evangelist isn't exactly a Garden of Eden."

Who is Matt Brock to judge someone for his beliefs? His statement was absolutely unconscionable, callous, unethical, and truly uncalled for! I feel that he owes Jake an apology.

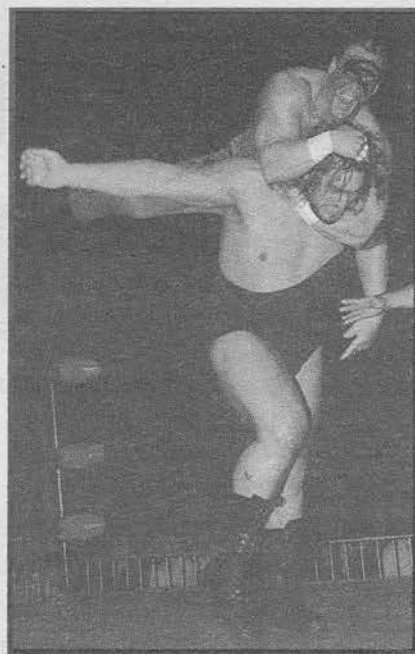
What exactly is Mr. Brock trying to say here, anyway? It may just be that Jake Roberts has found a harmonious balance between having strong religious beliefs and pursuing a career that he loves. Personally, I admire Roberts for having the courage to admit to himself and to many others that he needs a higher power to be present in his life. He has become a much better person because of his affiliation with the church and should be admired for

this, not condemned. His religious beliefs have only enhanced his demeanor, even in the ring.

Maybe Mr. Brock needs to



Since returning to the WWF, Jake Roberts has been open about the important role religion plays in his life. Reader Chris Sitzes admires him for this, and condemns Matt Brock for his "callous" views on Roberts.



Sting has struggled against The Giant recently, but he could still win another WCW World title if he'd forsake his friendships with Hulk Hogan and Lex Luger, says reader Erin Seneca.

take a closer look at his own life before he makes judgment calls on others.

CHRIS SITZES  
Arnold, MO

## CHOOSE YOURSELF, STING!

I think it's wrong for everyone to expect Sting to choose between Lex Luger and Hulk Hogan ("Luger Or Hogan: If Sting Makes The Wrong Choice—He's Through!" June 1996). As a loyal Sting fan, I think he should choose himself!

Sting has too much going for him to be bothered by both men and their egos. He needs to just forget both of them and worry about himself for a change. He might think he needs their support to win another WCW World title, but he doesn't. Those two are both just dragging him down. The only support Sting needs to win is that of his many fans, and I don't think he'd lose any of them if he took a stand for himself.

ERIN SENECA  
Jacksonville, FL



## AXL VS. IAN? AMATEURS!

I can't believe that Diesel's fans are dumber than he is! Tom Pine, you little goofball, you! I bet you're the wittiest guy in the whole second grade ("Readers Feud Expands," May 1996)! You wrote that I live in my parents' basement? Tommy, that joke is older than Matt Brock!

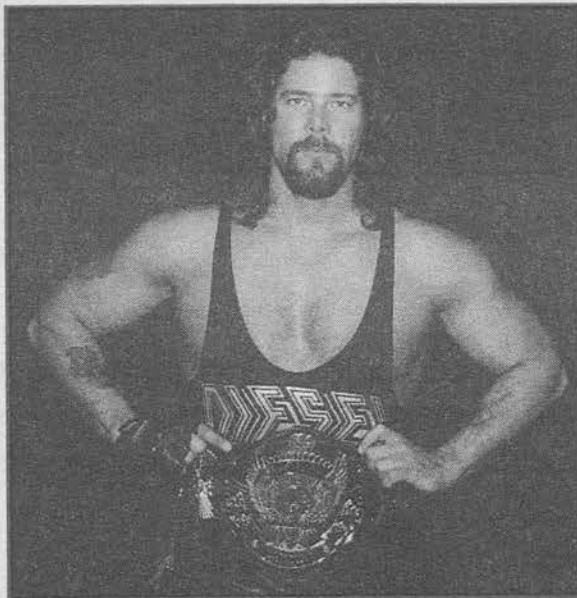
Diesel was undoubtedly the weakest WWF champion ever. Look at some of the guys he defended against: King Kong Bundy, Sid Vicious, Mabel ... ugh! Hey, I've never beaten a ranked WWF wrestler, either! Where's my title shot? Even Yokozuna made frequent title defenses against top-ranked challengers like Bret Hart and The Undertaker.

So Bret "stole" the belt from "Big Dummy Fool" at Survivor Series, huh? Uh, Tommy? Bret used a small package and scored a clean pinfall. And it was a no-disqualification, anything-goes match! No, Tommy, m'boy, Bret merely used Diesel's stupidity against him. Heck, I just did the same thing to you! Let this be a lesson to you moronic Diesel fans (sorry, that's redundant).

HARRY SIMON  
Las Vegas, NV

## WORLD DOMINATION

In his April 1996 "Behind The Dressing Room Door" column, Dave Rosenbaum pondered questions about the ongoing feud between WCW and the WWF and tried to figure out which is really number one. Well, Rosenbaum answered his own question when



Many felt Diesel was one of the better WWF champions of recent years, but not Harry Simon. He rates "Big Daddy Cool" as the weakest WWF champ of all-time.

he quoted the late Kerry Von Erich: "There's only one world, so there can be only one world champion."

With this in mind, the wrestling organization whose champion travels all around the world defending his title the most is the true world champion. The WWF is the only federation whose champion does this. Its wrestlers travel all over Europe and Asia regularly; the WWF holds events in almost all 50 states and Canada.

On the other hand, WCW holds events in the Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic areas of the United States and occasionally sends wrestlers to Japan or England. In the last few years, WCW has only occasionally promoted cards west of the Mississippi River. How can WCW call its champion a "world" champion when it doesn't even promote shows in one-half of the United States?

ERIC THORNTON  
Kent, WA

## POINTING FINGERS

I am deeply disgusted with all the WWF head honchos who  
(Continued on page 52)

# W Inside Wrestling

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# REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

If, in a role reversal of mammoth proportions, father Dusty Rhodes said to son Dustin Rhodes: "I'm going to hold my breath until you drop that ridiculously embarrassing Goldust persona," how long would Ol' Dust have to be able to hold out?

Depends on who you talk to.

Some of my "in the know" people say that any day now, Goldust is going to strip off the gold robe and beneath it will not be a bustier, thong, garter belt ensemble, but rather wrestling tights and an attitude. At that point, he'll announce to the world (in words that have never appeared in any movie) that his Goldust character was merely a ruse, that "Goldust" has taken him where he needed to be, and that he was ready to carry on, unleashing Texas tough Dustin Rhodes on the WWF.

Funny thing about "in the know" people, though. There are always other "in the know" people who know something completely different. These people tell me that Dustin is enjoying his golden moments. He's the talk of the wrestling world, he's winning his matches, and he's making money. If that's all that matters to him, why change now?

Now, I consider myself an "in the know" person, and, quite honestly, I don't know how long Goldust will be contaminating our sport. I'm not even sure how Dusty Rhodes, a man's man if there ever was one, feels about his son's charade. He loves Dustin and wants the best for him. He, I'm sure, is proud that Dustin has been able to win one of the sport's premier titles, the WWF Intercontinental belt. But as for his true feelings about the character that is Goldust, let's just say it's doubtful Dusty will ever speak openly about it—at least not for public consumption.

I do know this: Dustin Rhodes is, for the first time, one of the key stars in this sport, and his athletic talent is only partially the reason. I wouldn't hold my breath waiting for him to change.



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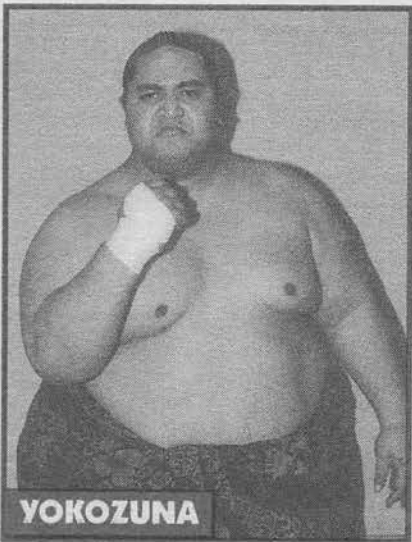
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# NAMES MA

**YOKOZUNA** WAS SCREAMING in pain after a **Big Van Vader** splash nearly broke his left leg during an April 1 match, but the next time Yoko gets into the ring, it could be *Vader* who's doing the



**YOKOZUNA**

screaming. While lying in his hospital bed two days after the attack, Yoko was already talking about paying *Vader* back for what he did. We're told by a close friend of his, **Mike Yoneso**, that Yoko plans to lose some weight before getting back into the ring, too.

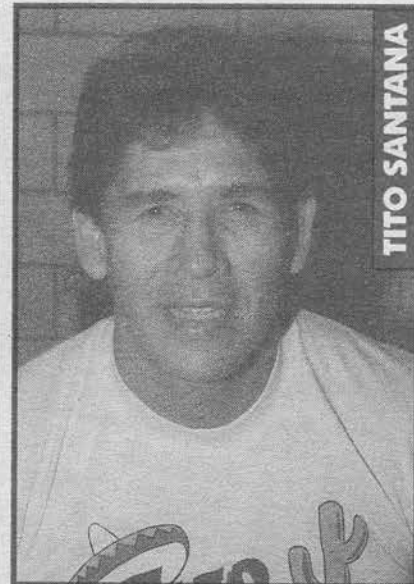
"This *Vader* guy does not know what he's in for when Yokozuna comes back," said Yoneso. "I've never seen him so focused and so determined to gain revenge!"

**Hulk Hogan** is still amazing. In one night, he defeated **Kevin Sullivan** and **Arn Anderson** in a handicap match, then just minutes later, he got up after being choke-slammied by **The Giant**. Then he bodyslammied the 7'4" rulebreaker! ... **Jesse James Armstrong** captured the USWA's new TV title in a battle royal on April 13.

**Sam Houston** and **Charlie**

**Norris** have formed a team and are pursuing the Confederate Wrestling Alliance tag team title, which is currently held by **The Sicilian Studs—Vito Mussolini and Guido Falcone** ... After years of wrestling for All-Japan Pro Wrestling, **Abdullah the Butcher** has signed with Tokyo Pro. Promoters are trying to get a match made pitting Abdullah against one of his hated rivals of years ago, **Tiger Jeet Singh** ... **Brad Armstrong** pulled off a stunning upset when he beat **Dean Malenko** on a recent WCW card ... **Tracey Smothers** has asked NWA promoters for a shot at heavyweight champion **Dan Severn**.

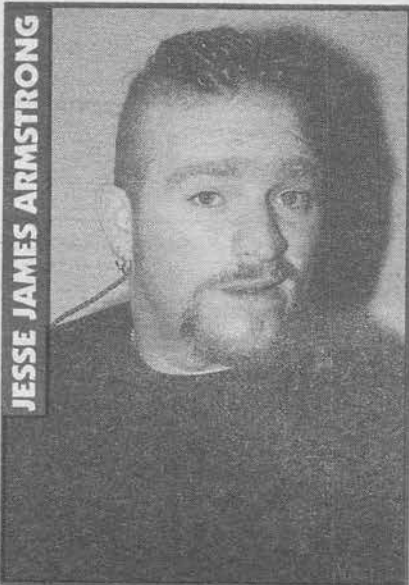
**Jeff Jarrett** has returned to action after taking two months off with a back injury. His first match back was no easy test, either. He battled his good friend (and the USWA heavyweight champion) **Jerry Lawler** in a match that ended in a 60-minute time-limit draw. "It was a classic," Jarrett said. "Made **Shawn Michaels** and **Bret Hart's** match look like a rank amateur contest!" ... **Tito Santana** is feuding with **Samu** in the Trans World Wrestling Federation. By the way, Trans World and the East Coast Wrestling Alliance will be co-promoting several cards.



**TITO SANTANA**

After losing his car in a special stipulation match to **Cyberpunk Fire**, **Bill Dundee** won it back a few weeks later. Dundee is thrilled that he did, too, because if he had lost the return match, he would have had to retire ... **Tommy Rich** is \$2,500 poorer after losing a match to **Cyberpunk Ice**. Rich put up the money against Cyberpunk's mask.

I talked to **Brian Pillman** about his future recently, and he was his usual cocky self. "Have you seen how **The Four Horsemen** can't even win a match without me there?" he said. "They thought I was trouble for them. Hell, I was *The Four Horsemen*. They're begging me to come back." Pillman added that he is still considering competing in ECW "whenever I give those lowlife promoters a chance to utilize my talents."



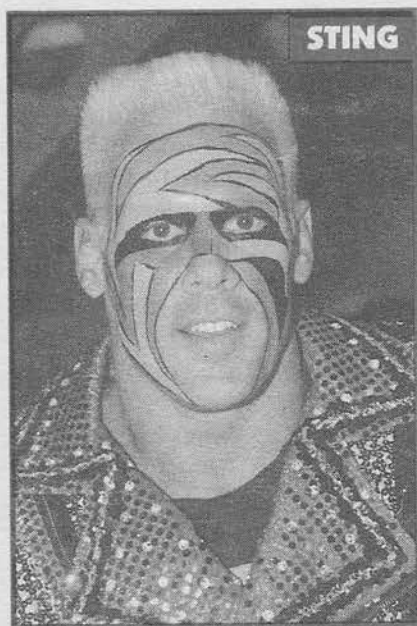
**JESSE JAMES ARMSTRONG**



# KIN' NEWS

By Bill Apter

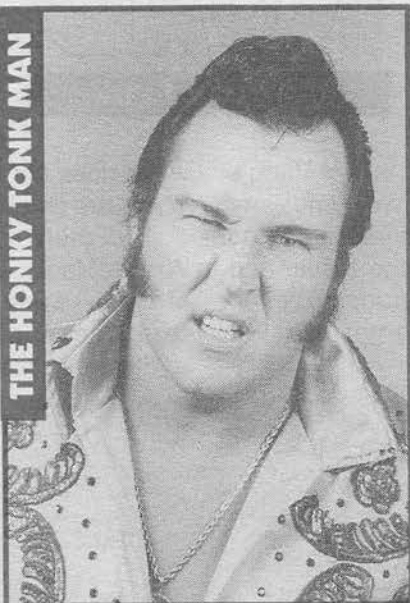
Veteran **Mil Mascaras** has been wrestling in several California independent organizations ... **Susan Sexton** is feuding with **Cheryl Rusa** on the West Coast ... **Sting** is practically begging WCW promoters to sign him to a match against U.S. champion **Konnan**. "As a for-



mer U.S. champion, I deserve the shot," he said. "But for some reason, I'm being ignored on that U.S. title list." Commissioner **Nick Bockwinkel** said the reason Sting hasn't received a shot at Konnan is that he already holds the WCW tag team title with **Lex Luger** and, "he should focus on defending that title more often."

Can you believe it? **Kimberly** (a.k.a. **The Booty Babe**) wants to compete in WCW. "Even though I haven't really wrestled before," she said, "I'd give anything to get a match against either **Woman** or **Elizabeth**. They both deserve to be punished for all the rotten things they've done to my **Booty Man**,

THE HONKY TONK MAN



Hulk, and the 'Macho Man.'"

After a short hiatus, National Wrestling Conference promoters are now running cards in Las Vegas again. They've signed **Sabu** to do battle with **Kama** on an upcoming card and are also planning to bring back **The Honky Tonk Man** ... Confederate Wrestling Alliance Commissioner **Red Bastien** has sanctioned the very first "hangman's noose" match between **Johnny Mantell** and "Wild" **Bill Irwin**. "It will be legal to use the noose any way they deem fit," Bastien said. "I hope this will settle their differences once and for all. Their feud has just gone too far."

One North Carolina promoter tried to lure **Rick Steamboat** out of retirement for a big payday recently, but Steamboat refused. "My wrestling career is over because of what happened to my back, and I have no regrets," he said. "Even a huge paycheck can't lure me back. I was told that if I reinjure my back, I could be crippled for life. It's just not worth the risk."

**Madd Maxxine** now managing PWF tag team champions **Austin Steele** and **Terry Austin** called our offices to issue a challenge to the WWF and WCW World tag team champions. "The **Bodydonnas** and **Lex Luger** and **Sting** cannot call themselves world champions until they defeat my dream team! If they think they're man enough, tell them to give me a call."

The Ladies International Wrestling Association will hold its 11th annual convention at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas June 20 to 22. The surviving members of **Paul Boesch's** immediate family—his son **Joey** and wife **Valerie**—will receive a special award at the event. **Fred Blassie** and several other veterans will also be honored ... The AIWF's **Bad Brad** is demanding a



series of "I Quit" matches against **Rick Deeziel**. Deeziel bruised several of Brad's ribs in a match this spring, sidelining Brad for several weeks.

That's all for now. I'll see you at the matches!

IT IS CERTAINLY not a day like any other. It is WrestleMania Sunday, WrestleMania XII Sunday, to be exact, and any wrestling writer or fan worth his salt is either in Anaheim, California, or watching the card live on pay-per-view TV. Or at least getting the replay, right? But I'm in Charlotte, North Carolina, for a PWF card at the PWF Training Center and if there's anybody here harboring big-time dreams, they sure aren't showing it.

It's true, you know: One day a year, WrestleMania becomes the center of the wrestling universe. It is wrestling's Super Bowl Sunday, our Final Four weekend, and there's nothing WCW or any other federation can do about it. WrestleMania has become the focus, and you have to believe that deep down inside, even Hulk Hogan felt a little out of place not being in Anaheim on this day.

# ON THE ROAD

With Dave Lenker

to worry about my own business. Otherwise, I'll have no business at all."

Every day is a day of self-preservation for Italian Stallion or George South or Star Ryder, all of whom won't say whether they dream of wrestling at WrestleMania, although chances are that they do. In fact, on this holiest of wrestling days, there was a USWA card in Louisville, Kentucky, a WCW card in Dayton, Ohio, and a WWWA card in Clymer, Pennsylvania, just to name a few.

Even on WrestleMania Sunday, the world does not completely revolve around the WWF. There are satellites, too.

And there are fans who have little interest in WrestleMania. Some of those fans—a few hundred of them—were at the Training Center for the PWF card. They cheered and hollered, hoped and rooted, and one of them, Ben Plaut, said he didn't care

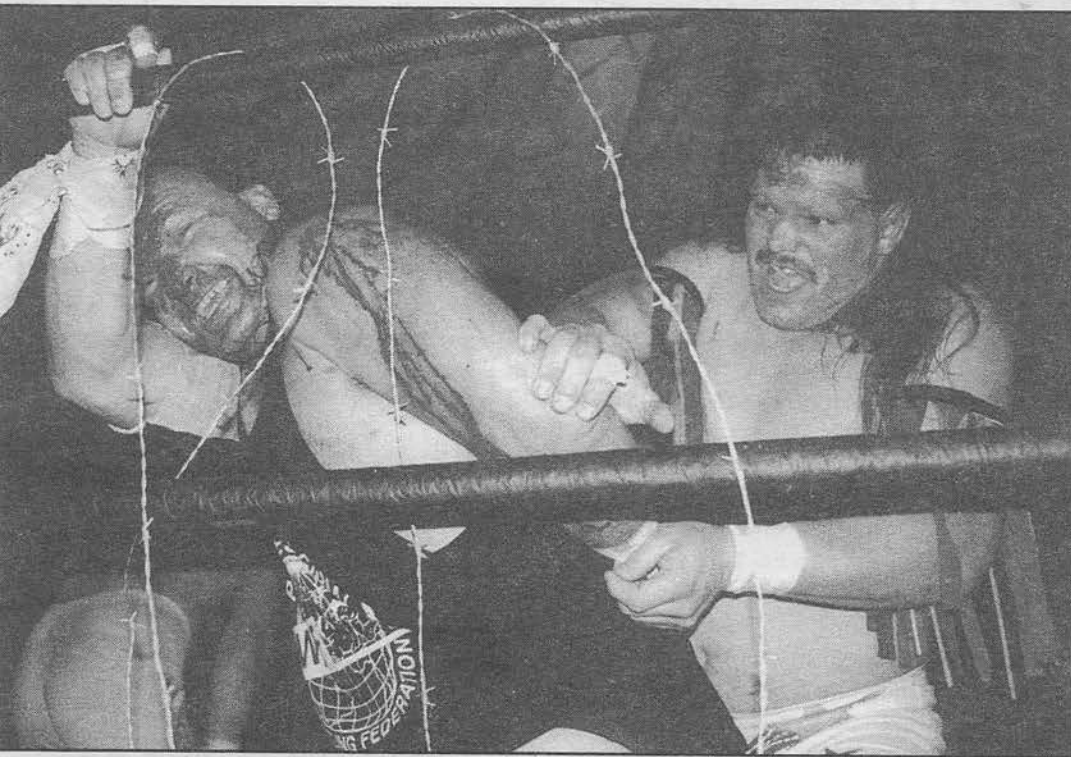
what happened at WrestleMania "because I hate the WWF. I like this stuff. These guys are sweating. They're not millionaires. They work real hard for every penny they get."

When I pointed out to Austin Steele, a PWF mainstay who, like many of his comrades, has some experience at WWF TV tapings, that Shawn Michaels and Bret Hart would work pretty hard for 60 minutes, he had this to say: "Sure, they'll be expending every ounce of energy, but they've already used up the blood and the tears, now there's

only sweat. They're not desperate. They've made it. Even if Michaels loses, he wakes up the next morning with tons of money and the knowledge there'll be other title shots. Sure, he'll be disappointed, but life is full of little disappointments. He'd get over it."

I asked George South how he would deal with a title match at WrestleMania.

(Continued on page 54)



When George South and Star Ryder clash in a barbed-wire match on a PWF card, no one is watching them on pay-per-view. On WrestleMania Sunday, PWF wrestlers were concerned only about what was going on in their ring.

But Italian Stallion felt perfectly at home wrestling The Black Dragon in the main event of PWF's card on this WrestleMania Sunday. There's nowhere else he wanted to be.

"Would it matter?" Stallion said. "I'm here and I have to worry about my match. It's the only thing that can be going through my mind. Besides, what does Michaels vs. Hart have to do with me? I have



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12. Taz + Kevin Sullivan vs. Bruise Brothers (titlechange) wild brawl
13. Taz vs. JT Smith
14. Taz + Kevin Sullivan + Crash vs. Rebel + Stetson + Pitbull #1
15. Taz vs. Jimmy Snuka

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5. Taz vs. Dean Malenko
6. Taz vs. Steve Richards
7. Taz + Sabu vs. Chris Benoit + Dean Malenko 5 stars Public Enemy run in
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3. Taz + Steiners vs. Eliminators + Jason
4. Taz Video
5. Taz turns on Todd Gordon and goes with Bill Alfonso
6. Taz vs. Ubas
7. Taz vs. Nakagawa
8. Taz and Bam Bam Bigelow confrontation
9. Taz vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Bigelow comes in
10. Taz vs. Hack Myers
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4. Taz vs. Sabu (title change)
5. Taz vs. Sandman
6. Taz vs. Pitbull #1 (dog collar match) bloody
7. Taz + Sabu vs. Pitbulls
8. Taz vs. Chris Benoit
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10. Taz vs. Al Snow
11. Taz + Sabu vs. Public Enemy
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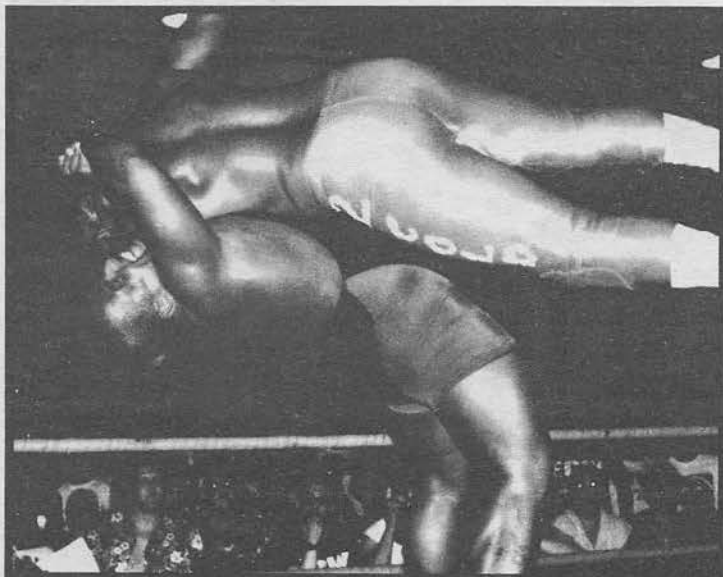
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# Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

**W**HEN HULK HOGAN nearly manhandled Woman on *WCW Monday Nitro* on April 15, a controversy that wrestling insider types would rather ignore emerged yet again: What is a male wrestler supposed

to do when he's confronted by a female wrestler, manager, or valet? Is she open game? Or do the laws of society—a man isn't supposed to strike a woman—apply under all circumstances?

A Hogan supporter would probably point out that the "Hulkster" didn't exactly strike Woman, and he or she would be right. He lifted her and placed her on the mat. Actually, he lifted her aggressively and pushed her onto the canvas. It was an act of male aggression against a female, but was it an uncalled for act? Again, the Hogan supporters will claim Woman got what she deserved, while the Hogan haters will say he was overaggressive and had no business touching Woman. After all, she didn't attack him. But of course she has in the past.

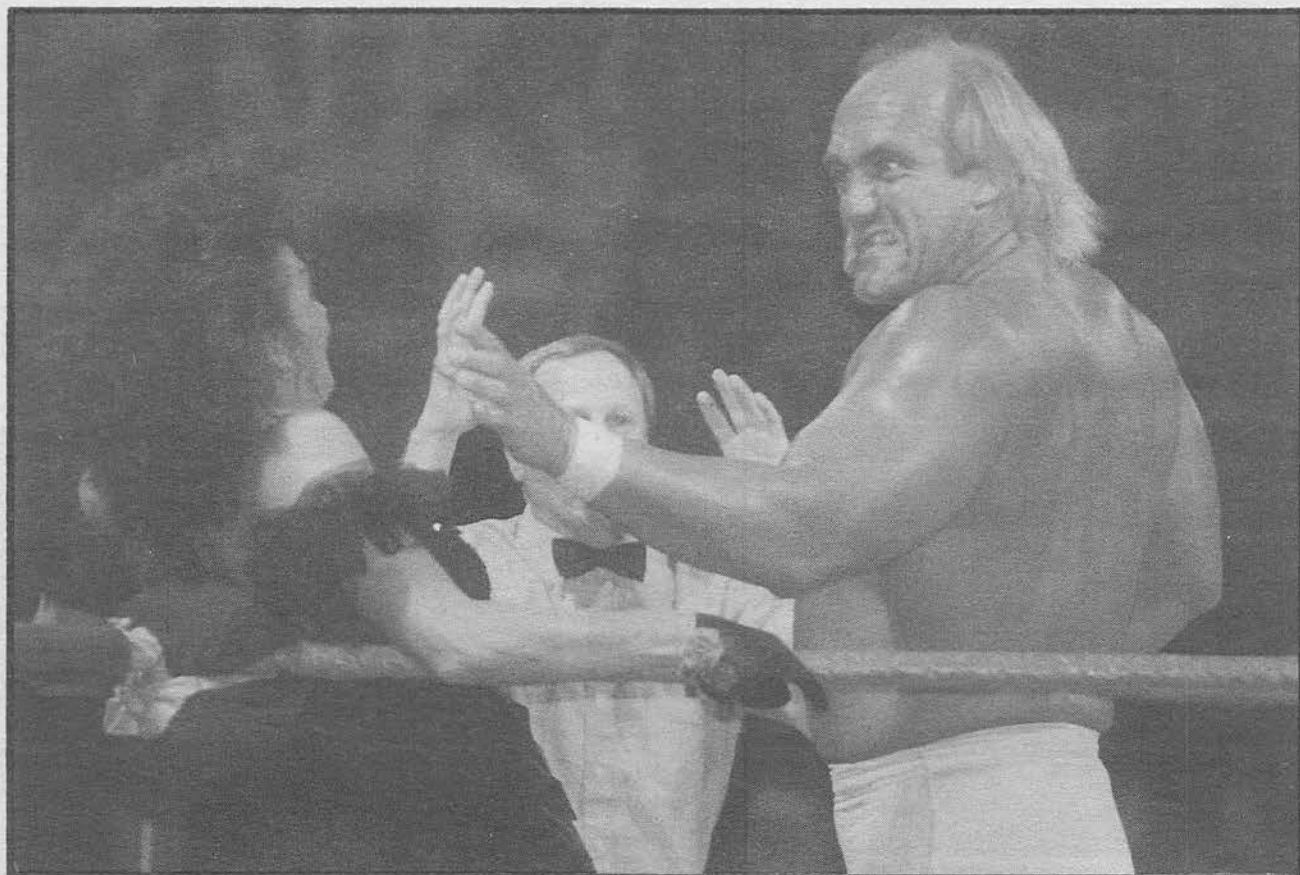
Hogan isn't the first male wrestler to confront a female in the ring,

nor will he be the last, and that's why the question is so interesting: If it's 100 percent wrong for a man to lay his hands on a woman in the ring, then don't female valets, managers, and wrestlers have a free ticket to do whatever they want to against their male enemies? Obviously, verbal debate wasn't going to solve the Hogan-Woman problem, whatever that might be. In wrestling, force prevails over everything else. Nobody has ever won a world title during an interview.

I think there's a pretty simple guideline for this: If the female attacks the male, the male has a right to at least defend himself ... in the ring. If the female doesn't attack the male, the male should absolutely not strike the female, not even if he's out for revenge.

You know what, though? It real-

*(Continued on page 55)*



Even if a female manager—Sherri Martel, Woman, Elizabeth, or anyone else—physically attacks him in the ring, Hulk Hogan must be careful about how he responds. Is it right for the "Hulkster" to hit a woman who hits him?



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# the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

*(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)*

**A**pologies, apologies, apologies. Seems like everyone's handing them out. Remorse

is in, and no matter how heinous the crime, it's never too late to say, "I'm sorry." "We sent your kid to war and he got killed? Oh, sorry. In retrospect, we shouldn't have been there in the first place."

"We hijacked a cruise ship and murdered your husband? Ah, our mistake!"

In wrestling, apologies are often a very effective tool for turning your former friends back into your current friends, unless the man being apologized to is Hulk Hogan and he has no use for you anymore. Sgt. Slaughter tried to apologize to Hogan, but Hogan said no. Then Brutus Beefcake tried to play kissy-kissy with Hogan and Hogan turned his back, until, of course, Hogan needed him to save his back.

With this in mind, it might be interesting to see how things might work out if some famous wrestling couples, former friends, and tag team partners tried to kiss and make up. Then again, it might not be. You decide in about 60 lines.

## THE UNHAPPY COUPLE:

Elizabeth and Randy Savage.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** They got a divorce.

**CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?** Probably not, now that the beautiful Miss Liz has gotten a taste of what life can really be like with Ric Flair (although you could see she didn't like it when Flair started fawning over Steve McMichael's wife while she sat in the front row at a recent *Monday Nitro*). Besides, what's Savage got to offer Elizabeth that Flair doesn't have? (How many times could she take hearing, "So, Liz, if what it is is what it is, what it is"? ) Flair wines and dines Elizabeth at the best restaurants in Atlanta: Pano and Paul's, 103 West, and Capriccio. A woman like Elizabeth is in no mood to slum once she's had a taste of the good life.

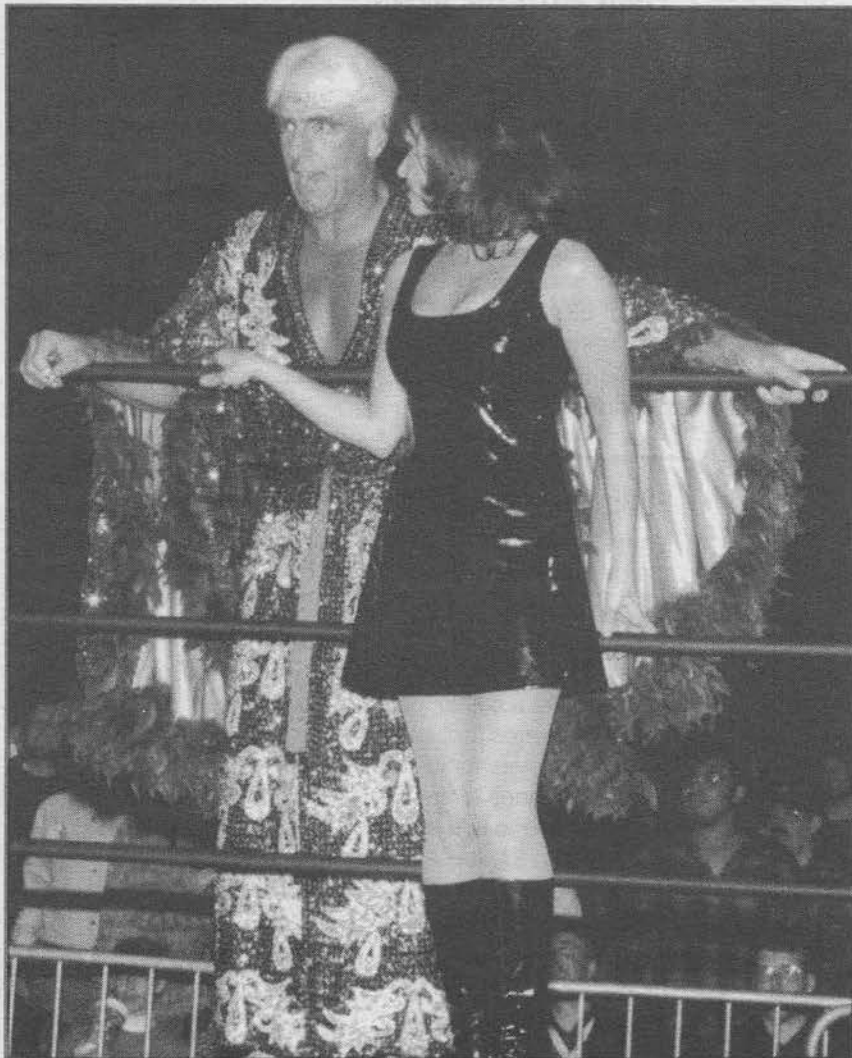
Savage should start looking elsewhere.

\*\*\*

## THE UNHAPPY COUPLE:

Shawn Michaels and Diesel.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Diesel lost the WWF World title, Michaels won  
*(Continued on page 56)*



Elizabeth knows a classy guy when she sees one. She looks wonderful on the arm of the "Nature Boy," don't you think? I bet she's having the time of her life right now.



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- 1) Rick Martel
- 2) Nick Bockwinkel
- 3) Curt Hennig
- 4) Verne Gagne

The largest crowd ever to witness a pro wrestling show (190,000) was in what city?

- 1) London, England
- 2) Toronto, Ontario
- 3) Pyongyang, North Korea
- 4) Tokyo, Japan

True or False: Hulk Hogan is the only wrestler to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following cities did NOT host a portion of WrestleMania II?

- 1) Chicago, Illinois
- 2) Atlantic City, New Jersey
- 3) Uniondale, New York
- 4) Los Angeles, California



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4220/03-96

# ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

A GROUP OF WWF wrestlers, all of whom refused to be identified for obvious reasons, recently protested to WWF President Gorilla Monsoon about the finishing hold/move used by Mankind, a.k.a. Cactus Jack. The move, which has no name, sees Mankind jamming two of his fingers, taped together, into an opponent's esophagus. The wrestlers claim the move is nothing more than a thinly disguised chokehold.

Viewers of the old *Three Stooges* TV shows are familiar with something vaguely similar to this move. It has the person jamming two fingers, not taped together, into the opponent's eyes, causing great pain. The move, which we'll call "The Stooges' Poke," has a very simple counter: All the victim has to do is place his hand sideways along the bridge of his nose, thereby forcing the protagonist's fingers to fall short of their intended mark.

But in the case of Mankind, the fingers are taped together, jammed into an opponent's mouth, and held there, so there is no good defense for it, especially if Mankind applies it after he has already worn his opponent down sufficiently. The end result, of course, is that he cuts off his opponent's air.

For guidance with this issue, I referred to my handy, dog-eared copy of *Webster's Dictionary*. It defines choke as "to stop the

breath of by obstructing the windpipe," "to obstruct, clog," and "to suppress or hinder." Therefore, according to Mr. Webster, choking does not necessarily mean placing your hand around somebody's throat. Merely cutting off wind is good enough.

Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly, who was a victim of Mankind's bizarre move, said it is the same as a

isified if the five-second rule on chokes was applied to Mankind's maneuver, although presumably that would allow Mankind to keep applying the move in four-second bursts with one-second breaks, as many wrestlers do now with chokeholds and other illegal maneuvers.

It's interesting that so many wrestlers went complaining to



Just days before he made his WWF debut as Mankind, Cactus Jack was trying out his new move on Mikey Whipwreck in ECW. A group of WWF wrestlers say this is nothing more than a disguised chokehold.

chokehold. "He used that on me once, and I never want him to do it again," he explained. "That's a very, very dangerous move."

Aldo Montoya, another victim, says it's not wrestling, while a spokesman for Gorilla Monsoon said he is not ready to ban the move. Wrestlers say they'd be sat-

Monsoon, since the perfect counter to Mankind's maneuver is already in the WWF: Big Van Vader. Mankind doesn't need to be reminded that three years ago, Big Van Vader nearly ended his career by power-bombing him on the concrete floor of Atlanta's

(Continued on page 58)



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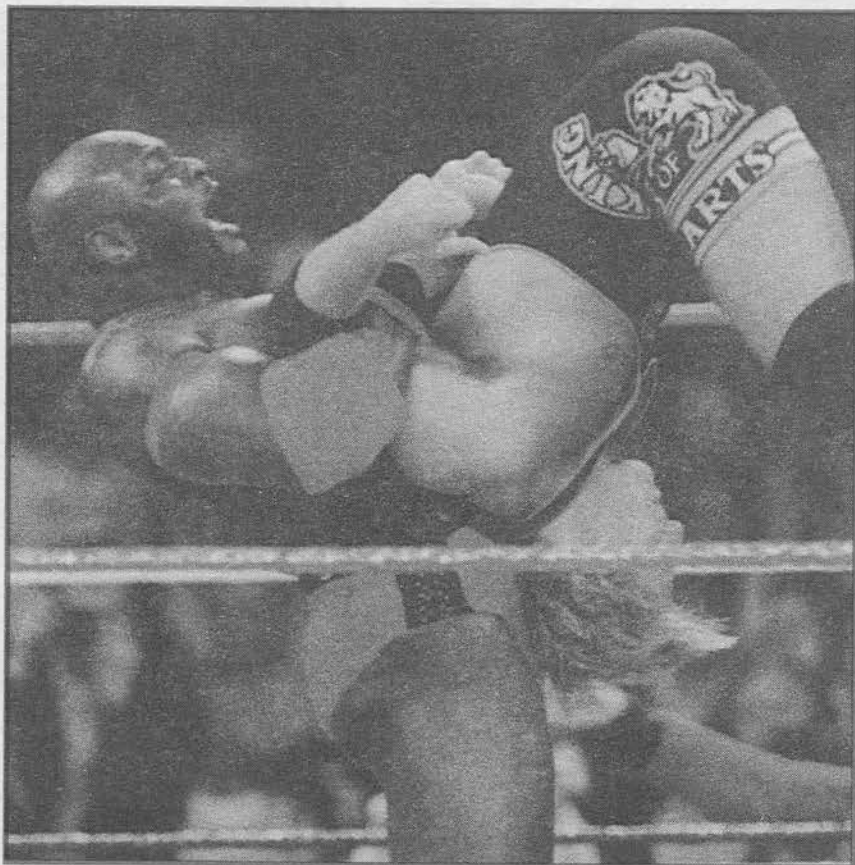
# INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE <sup>243</sup>

## AHMED JOHNSON

**D**AVEY BOY SMITH may have done a very stupid thing on April 1. After losing an arm-wrestling contest to Ahmed Johnson, he bashed Johnson with chairs and a table. A feud was born, and it might be one the "British Bulldog" cannot handle. Johnson is arguably the strongest man in the WWF right now, and as of press time, he was still undefeated after nearly six months in the WWF ... Johnson, a 6'4", 255-pound native of Pearl River, Mississippi, made his pro debut five years ago and regularly competed in several independents in the South ("You just go along, do your best, and look for a break") ... Met Gen. Skandor Akbar while competing in Texas, and Akbar gave him the name Moadib ("Akbar is sneaky, but he knows a lot; he can help a young wrestler out") ... Wrestled as a merciless rulebreaker in the now-defunct Global Wrestling Federation and, more recently, the Lone Star Wrestling Association ("You do what you have to do to get ahead sometimes") ... Finally got the big break he was looking for when WWF talent scouts noticed him and signed him in the fall of last year ("It was like a dream come true") ... Teamed with "Psycho" Sid Vicious, Davey Boy Smith, and Shawn Michaels to defeat Razor Ramon, Owen Hart, Yokozuna, and Dean Douglas in the eight-man "wildcard" match at Survivor Series and pinned Yokozuna for the win ... Johnson impressed a lot of people that night when he

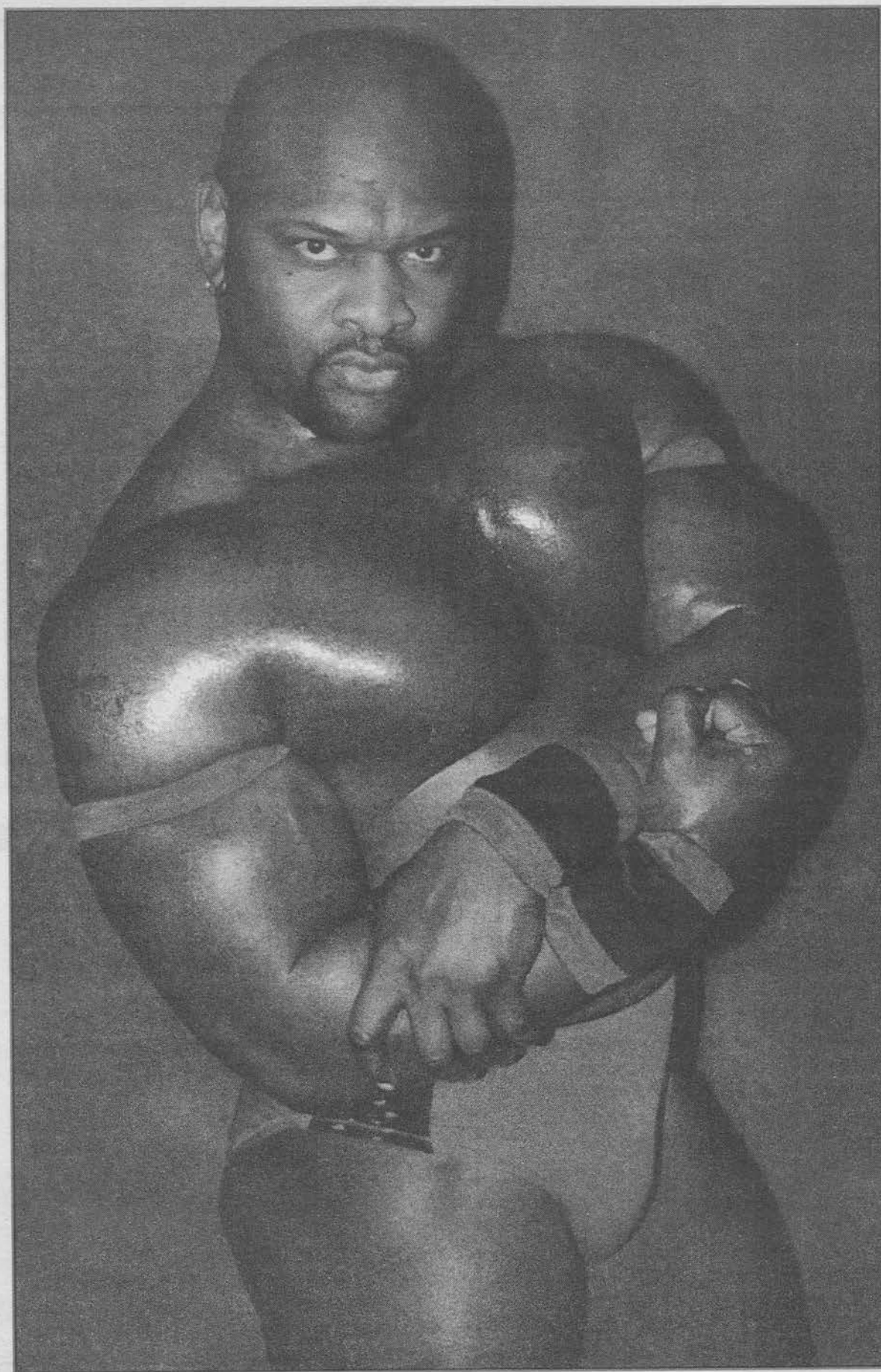
bodyslammed 589-pound Yoko ... Repeated the feat a few weeks later at a TV taping ("It didn't matter what anyone said; that proved the first time was no fluke") ... Meanwhile, in the USWA, he received a shot at Jerry Lawler's heavyweight title on November 6 and won it in impressive fashion after bodyslamming "The King" 10 consecutive times ("That shut his big mouth ... for a little while at least") ... Lost the belt to Jeff Jarrett on December 13 ... Four days later at In Your House V, Jarrett returned to the WWF and smashed Ahmed with a plaque while Johnson was being

interviewed by Lawler ("Anyone who attacks a guy from behind is a gutless coward") ... Johnson won most of their WWF matches by pinfall, then got a victory over Jarrett by disqualification at the Royal Rumble when "Double-J" bashed him with a guitar ... Continued racking up wins over WWF mid-carders in the weeks leading up to WrestleMania XII ... Johnson, Jake Roberts, and Yokozuna lost to Big Van Vader, Davey Boy Smith, and Owen Hart at that pay-per-view, and Ahmed is now focused on Smith ("Just a matter of time before that 'British Bulldog' goes running away with his tail between his legs!"). □



Ahmed Johnson puts away Owen Hart with his "Pearl River Plunge." He has made the most of his incredible strength in the WWF and put together a long winning streak in singles matches.





# AHMED JOHNSON

# Where Are They NOW

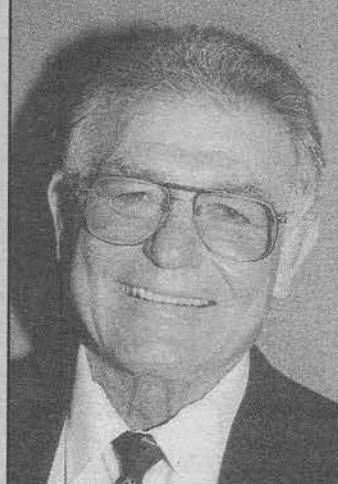
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## DICK MURDOCH

The 26-year veteran from Waxahachie, Texas, is still active and wrestling for the Confederate Wrestling Association, which is based in the famed Dallas Sportatorium. "I'm just as tough as I was 20 years ago," Murdoch pointed out. "I got this real tough

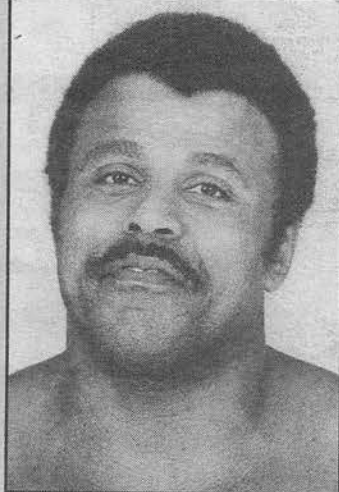
feud with Bobby Duncum's kid going on right now. I never liked his old man much, and I sure don't like this snot-nosed punk looking to make a reputation for himself at my expense. It just ain't gonna happen!"



## JOE BLANCHARD

One of Texas' great stars (and the father of Tully Blanchard), Joe works at the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, on a prayer line, where he prays for people who request God's help. The pastor of the church, John Hagee, has a TV show that is broad-

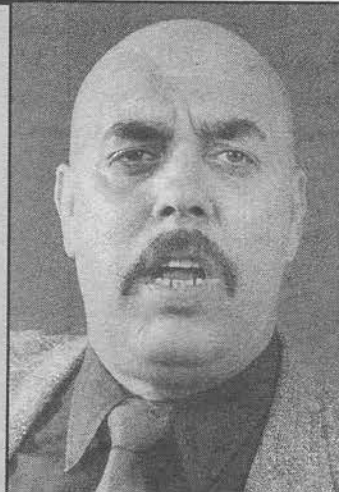
cast on several Christian networks on which the prayer line is advertised. Regarding pro wrestling today, Blanchard points out, "I still believe that the old style from the '60s and '70s would work today if guys would use it."



## ROCKY JOHNSON

Johnson, a former WWF tag team champion with Tony Atlas, only wrestles a few times a year now, but he looked great on a recent card in Florida. He spends most of his time these days working out and overseeing his son Duane's budding wrestling career. "I

have always loved our sport," he said. "I always worked hard and was disciplined. This is what I am teaching Duane. WWF talent scouts have looked at him; I think he's going to be a champion someday."



## GARY HART

Hart disappeared from wrestling three years ago so he could spend more time with his family. He then began working with a telemarketing firm in Dallas—Edward Blank & Associates. Today, Gary still lives with his wife, Twinkles, and sons Jason, 19,

and Chad, 17. Chad has begun training for a wrestling career and has worked out with Sam Houston and Chris Adams. His dad plans to start supervising the training soon and hopes Chad will make his debut by the end of 1996.



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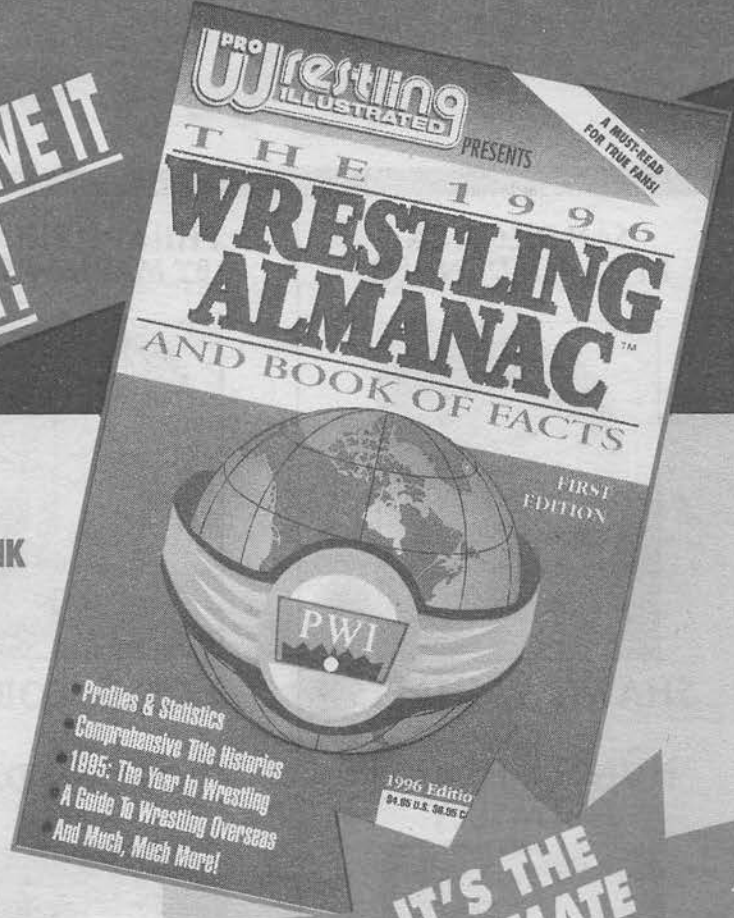
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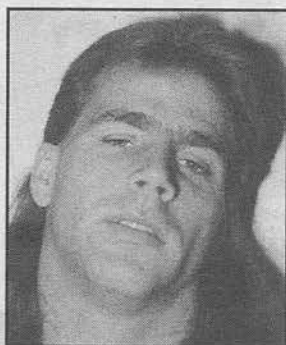
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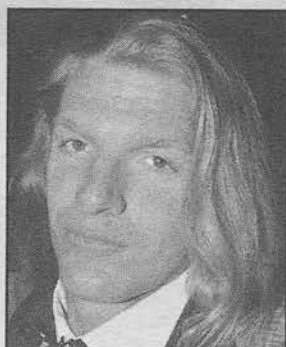
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# NEWS FROM THE

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BY KAREN DONNELL**



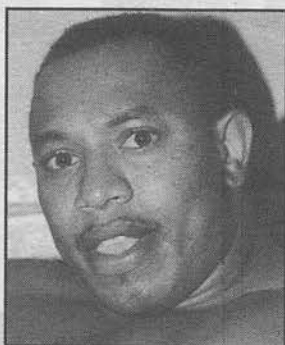
**SHAWN MICHAELS  
VS.  
HUNTER HEARST  
HELMSLEY**



Helmsley had a great chance to steal the WWF World title from a weary Michaels in this match, which took place just a few days after "The Heartbreak Kid" won the belt in that grueling WrestleMania XII "Iron Man" match. For a while, it looked as if he would do it, too. Helmsley dominated almost the entire match, but he was clearly unprepared for a late Michaels rally. After working over Shawn's back, Helmsley set Shawn up for his finisher, the "pedigree." Michaels, however, backdropped his way out of it. Helmsley was stunned. Before he could recover, Michaels nailed him with a superkick to the jaw and pinned him.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Savio Vega defeated Steve Austin ... Davey Boy Smith defeated Bob Holly ... "Wildman" Marc Mero & Ahmed Johnson defeated Davey Boy Smith & Owen Hart ... The Ultimate Warrior defeated Intercontinental champion Goldust by countout ... The Undertaker beat Big Van Vader.

**PHILADELPHIA, PA  
BY MARIE WISSEN**



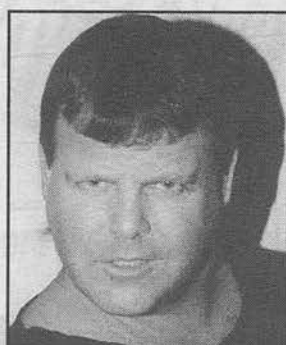
**2 COLD SCORPIO  
VS.  
ROB VAN DAM**



Van Dam made a great run at Scorpio's ECW TV title in this wild, fast-paced bout. He went on the offensive first and knocked Scorpio out of the ring with a series of kicks. But he couldn't sustain his momentum for long and later missed a moonsault from the railing. This gave Scorpio time to recover. Van Dam tried tying up Scorpio's arms and legs in a submission hold, but Scorpio wouldn't give in, so he released the hold. Van Dam also tried a superkick, a power bomb, and a kneedrop, but couldn't get a fall. Finally, Scorpio surprised Van Dam with a quick rollup for the win.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Pit Bulls beat The Bad Crew ... Mikey Whipwreck beat Damien Kane ... The Gangstas defeated Chad Austin & The Blue Meanie ... J.T. Smith beat Hack Myers ... Taz pinned Bubba Ray Dudley ... ECW tag team champs The Eliminators beat The Dark Riders ... Shane Douglas, The Sandman, & Tommy Dreamer defeated Raven & The Bruise Brothers.

**MEMPHIS, TN  
BY MARK MITCHELL**



**JERRY LAWLER  
VS.  
JEFF JARRETT**



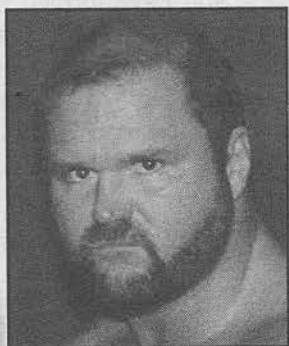
Jarrett made his return to action after sitting out two months with a back injury and immediately got a USWA title shot at his good friend Lawler. It turned out to be a very clean scientific match. Even though Jarrett had been away from the ring for a while, he looked very good. He worked on Lawler's legs for parts of the match, but he could never lock him into his figure-four. There were plenty of armbars, headlocks, and other holds from both men, but neither earned a pinfall. The bout ended in a 60-minute time-limit draw.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Headbangers defeated Tony Williams & David Haskins ... Samantha defeated Miss Texas ... Cyberpunk Ice beat Tommy Rich ... Jesse James Armstrong, Brian Christopher, & The Moondogs defeated Men on a Mission, Brickhouse Brown, & Reggie B. Fine in an anything-goes match ... Bill Dundee defeated Cyberpunk Fire.

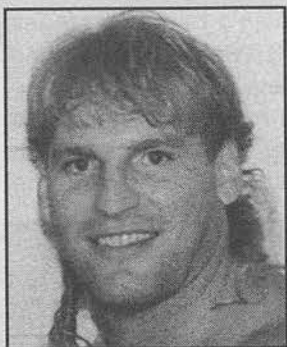


# WRESTLING CAPITALS

**ROME, GA**  
BY ALBERT FERNANDEZ



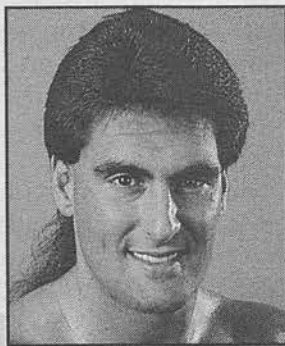
**ARN ANDERSON  
VS.  
STEVE ARMSTRONG**



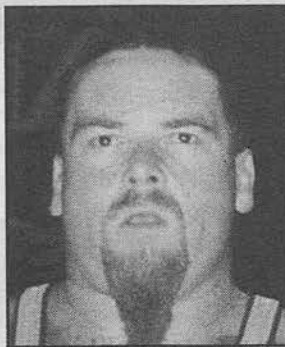
This bout was originally scheduled to be a tag team match pitting Anderson and Kevin Sullivan against Steve and Brad Armstrong, but Sullivan was conspicuously absent from the card. Anderson finally agreed to face one of the Armstrongs in a singles bout. "The Enforcer" jumped his foe as the bell sounded and was in control for just about the entire match. After wearing down Armstrong for the first few minutes, Anderson nailed him with a series of vicious kicks and punches. Finally, he executed his DDT and got the pinfall.

**OTHER BOUTS:** WCW TV champion Lex Luger defeated The Giant by disqualification ... The Booty Man defeated Max Muscle ... Eddy Guerrero defeated Devon Storm ... Harlem Heat beat The State Patrol ... Marcus Bagwell & Scotty Riggs defeated Meng & The Barbarian ... WCW World champion Ric Flair defeated Dick Slater ... WCW U.S. champion Konnan defeated Devon Storm.

**ESSEX, MD**  
BY ED WESTERLY



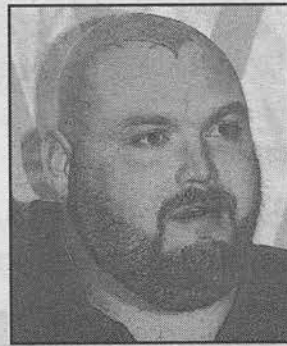
**JOHNNY GUNN  
VS.  
JIM NEIDHART**



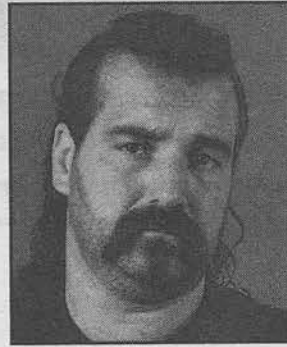
MEWF heavyweight champion Johnny Gunn started off defending his title against Neidhart, but ended up paying for his earlier win over Axl Rotten and Corporal Punishment. Gunn and Neidhart exchanged punches and kicks early on, and Gunn had Neidhart on the run after hitting him with some clotheslines, but before either man could go for a pinfall, Rotten and Punishment stormed the ring and attacked Gunn. The match was ruled a no-contest.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Hack Myers beat The Bodacious Pretty Boy ... Mad Dog O'Malley beat Bob Starr in a dog pound match ... Quinn Nash beat Adam Flash ... Lucifer beat The Cat Burglar ... Earl the Pearl beat Mark Schrader to win the vacant MEWF light heavyweight title ... Johnny Gunn won a triangle match over Axl Rotten and Corporal Punishment ... Boo Bradley beat Bill Wilde ... Ricky Blues pinned Steve Corino ... The Bad Crew & The Booty Man defeated The Dark Side & Damien Kane.

**LEHIGHTON, PA**  
BY TIMOTHY A. WALKER



**BAM BAM BIGELOW  
VS.  
911**



This battle of 300-plus pounders started slowly, as neither man could gain an advantage when they first locked up in mid-ring. Both also tried bounding off the ropes and knocking each other down with shoulderblocks, but both were unsuccessful. 911 got things going his way by hiptossing Bigelow across the ring. That marked the beginning of an all-out brawl. They traded punches to the head and clotheslines. The action slowed down for a while when 911 applied a reverse chinlock. Then, suddenly, Jim Neidhart hit the ring and attacked 911. Bigelow didn't know what to do. Then Neidhart attacked him, too. In the end, both combatants chased Neidhart away. The match was ruled a no-contest.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Bad Crew beat The Goodfellas ... Tiny the Terrible beat Half Nelson ... Doug Flex beat General Mayhem ... Reckless Youth beat Dave Keller ... Brick Bronsky defeated Frank Stalletto ... Public Enemy beat Havoc Inc.



## Matt Brock's **Plain** Speaking

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**

**D**isneyland and the WWF is the kind of combination a wrestling writer can have nightmares over. All the way here on the cab ride from the airport, I kept having illusions of Mickey Mouse making the ring announcements and Twinkletoes singing the national anthem.

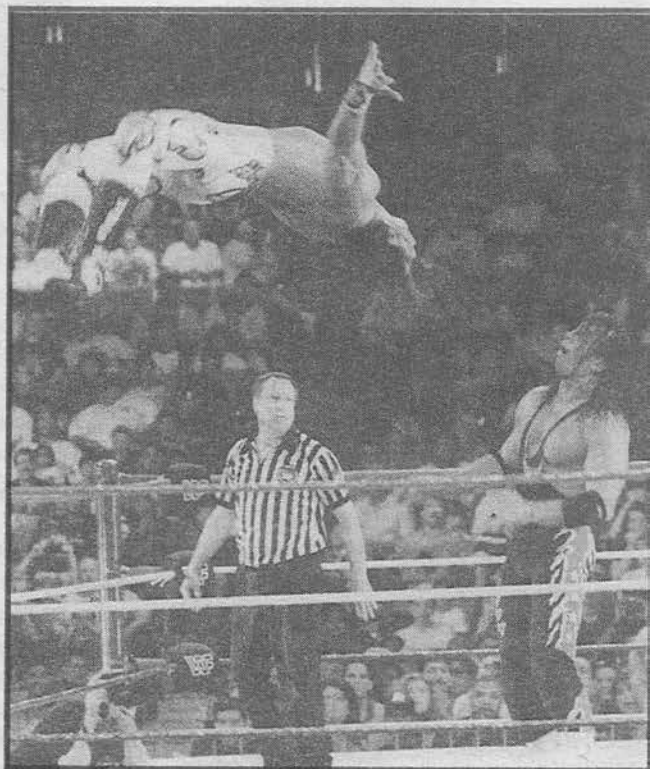
WrestleMania XII had all the markings of the raciest and most commercialized yet, but wouldn't you know it, McMahon and company came through with the kind of production that could make Lou Thesz and a hardened old wrestling scribe smile. Maybe the WWF was trying to throw us for a loop, prove they could do it the old way, or something like that. Whatever the situation, who really cares? The bottom line on this one is that WrestleMania XII was the best ever from an entertainment standpoint and the first in which I didn't think I'd need Rona Barrett at my side to call out the celebrities. The card had its down points: For example, wrestling belongs in a ring, not in a Hollywood backlot, and if Dustin Rhodes is making a habit out of this kind of thing (last year it was the back of a truck at WCW Uncensored), then maybe it's time for his old man to give him a good whipping. Maybe knock some sense back into him, because from what I can tell, he doesn't have an ounce of sense to spare. But forget the negatives. Shawn Michaels vs. Bret Hart was,

minute-for-minute, the best WrestleMania match of all-time, and you know this reporter isn't one for superlatives. Good to see old Jose Lothario at ringside, although I'm not sure what he was there for. Michaels looked like he always did, even without Lothario's help, although you have to give the kid a heckuva lot of credit for sticking with it even after that thing that happened outside a nightclub in Syracuse back in October. Real courage. Rock hard head. Sounds like the makings of an all-time great champion.

**K**evin Sullivan was in a nasty mood after The Giant, his former protege, choke-slammed him on national TV. Turns out that what got into The Giant is the same thing that has gotten into a lot of Sullivan's former proteges and is the main reason one of them called Sullivan "the most hated manager in the sport, at least among the wrestlers." Sullivan, the

ANAHEIM, CA

ATLANTA, GA



MICHAELS VS. BRET



man said, has an annoying habit of not looking out for the well-being of the men he manages, unless there's something in it for him. Maybe that's no big surprise, considering some of the odd things he used to do in the old Florida area. Sullivan has been a strange one since day one. I remember when Sullivan and Sir Oliver Humperdink were working the same street. Talk about too many kooks. If it wasn't Humperdink shutting off all the lights in a Sportatorium, it was Sullivan talking about the great beyond. But Sullivan is as dangerous as he is strange. He's the kind of guy who won't rest until he gets his revenge. It might be a month from now, or it might be five years from now, but mark my words: He will retaliate against The Giant.

**W**henver some wise guy tells me that size always wins in wrestling, I take out my little notebook and show him a list I've compiled. It's a list of big men who've never won the big one. Haystacks Calhoun, Gorilla Monsoon, Abdullah the Butcher ... the list goes on. For every Yokozuna and Big Van Vader, there's a King Kong Bundy and Frank Finnegan. It'll take a while before we find out which list Men on a Mission, especially Mabel, belongs on, but the view from here is that it'll take a big change—maybe severe weight loss—to make Mabel a serious challenger for any major title. As for Mo, figure he's too light to be considered among the monsters. Mabel's the dangerous one in this duo, but he's so immobile at times that you have to wonder how he ever makes his way to the ring. The team has been doing okay since leaving the WWF, and Mabel's the USWA Southern champion, but how much further can he go? Looks like it's time for Mabel to

## NASHVILLE, TN



MO & MABEL

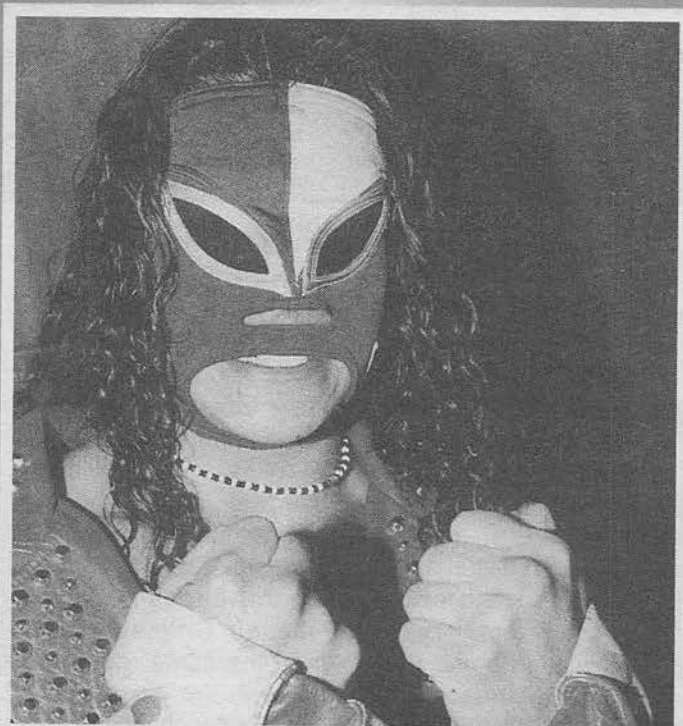
decide if he has any serious wrestling talent, and if he does, it'll be time to take off some weight.

**W**henver an ECW program comes on TV, I immediately starting thinking about the IWA, a very popular federation in the mid-1970s that aired its shows at midnight on Saturdays on Channel 9 in New York and featured some oddball characters, including The Mighty Igor, and some great athletes, like Mil Mascaras and Argentina Apollo. The IWA gave it a

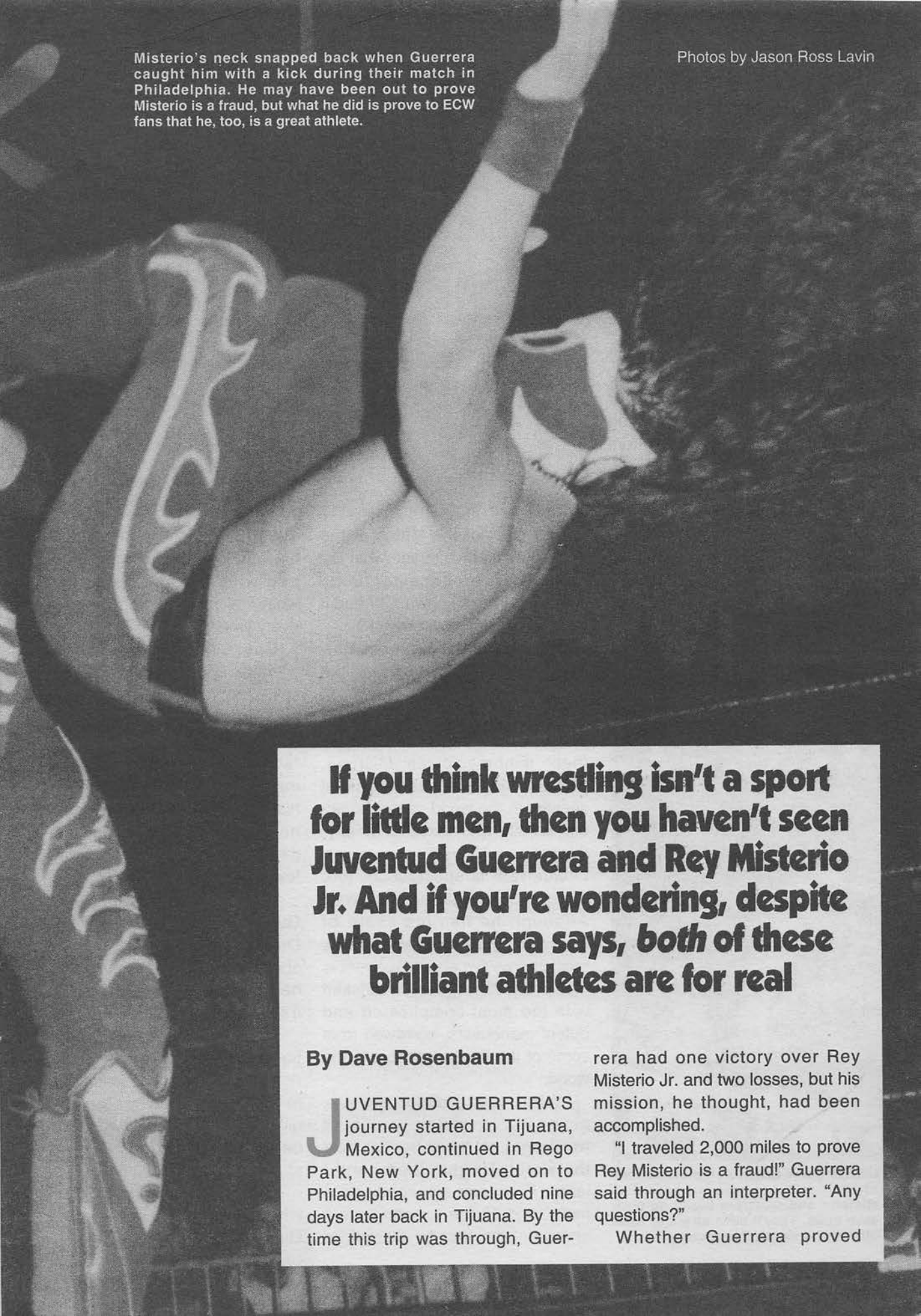
good run before dying out, and now it has been reincarnated, in a way, as ECW, although ECW is far more violent. The reason this comes to mind is that ECW is trying to make headway in the New York area without stepping foot in Madison Square Garden, Meadowlands Arena, or Nassau Coliseum. IWA tried the same route and couldn't make it. We'll see about ECW. It has a better chance than most. □

## NEW YORK, NY

**“I TRAVELED  
2,000 MILES  
TO PROVE  
REY MISTERIO  
IS A FRAUD!”**







Misterio's neck snapped back when Guerrero caught him with a kick during their match in Philadelphia. He may have been out to prove Misterio is a fraud, but what he did is prove to ECW fans that he, too, is a great athlete.

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

**If you think wrestling isn't a sport for little men, then you haven't seen Juventud Guerrero and Rey Misterio Jr. And if you're wondering, despite what Guerrero says, *both* of these brilliant athletes are for real**

**By Dave Rosenbaum**

**J**UVENTUD GUERRERA'S journey started in Tijuana, Mexico, continued in Rego Park, New York, moved on to Philadelphia, and concluded nine days later back in Tijuana. By the time this trip was through, Guer-

rera had one victory over Rey Misterio Jr. and two losses, but his mission, he thought, had been accomplished.

"I traveled 2,000 miles to prove Rey Misterio is a fraud!" Guerrero said through an interpreter. "Any questions?"

Whether Guerrero proved

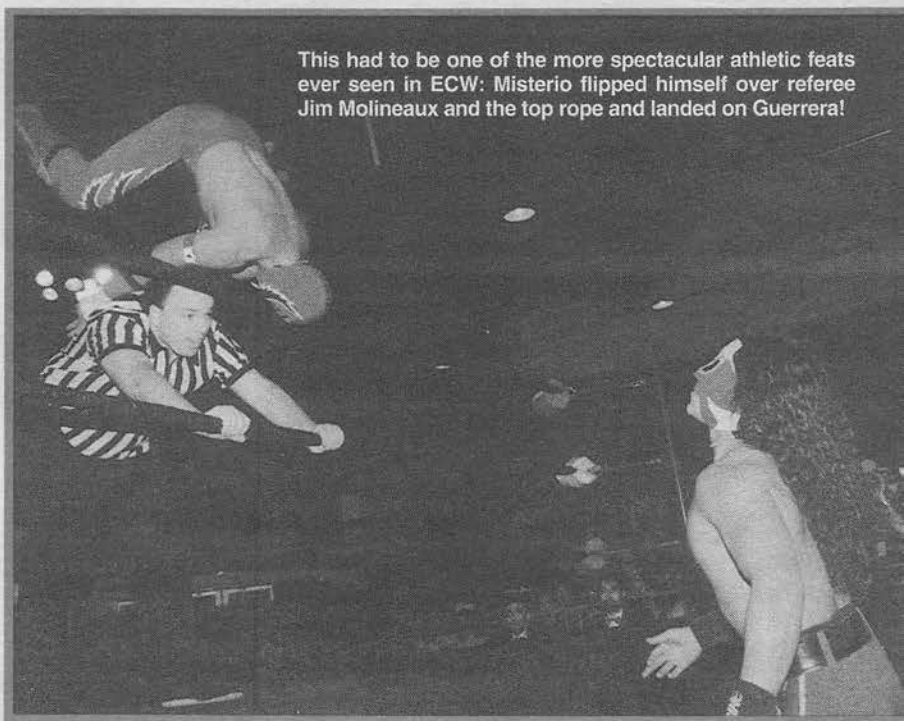
Misterio is a fraud is a point of contention. His aim was to show that Misterio, who stands a mere 5'3" and weighs but 140 pounds, is not pound-for-pound the best wrestler in the world. Guerrero, who's a bit bigger at 5'5", 165 pounds, feels that designation belongs to him, and he went all-out in three thrilling matches to prove it.

"I know Rey Misterio well," he said. "Since he came to ECW, all the American fans say he is the best they ever saw, the most athletic. They say he always invents new moves. I tell you he is nothing compared to me! He learned from watching me!"

The third battle, which was held in Tijuana, was a continuation of the many battles they've had in Mexico's AAA. It was the first two matches that gave U.S. fans a taste of what Misterio and Guerrero are capable of when they get together in the ring.



Lost to some extent in the excitement of their matches was the fact that Misterio and Guerrero really do hate each other. They'll even attack in each other in the stands if necessary.



This had to be one of the more spectacular athletic feats ever seen in ECW: Misterio flipped himself over referee Jim Molineaux and the top rope and landed on Guerrero!

"If that's not the Match of the Year, then I'd love to see what is," said ECW broadcaster Joey Styles. "I always knew ECW had it all. Now we have even more."

The first match, at Lost Battalion Hall in Rego Park, and the second, at ECW Arena in Philadelphia, were masterful displays of wrestling excellence by these mini-magicians. Misterio, perhaps the most talented aerial wrestler in the world, is a spectacular athlete who dares to do anything.

Guerrero is spectacular, too, but in a somewhat different way. Although he has his share of breathtaking aerial moves, what's most impressive about Guerrero is his library of moves. It's stocked with the most complicated and potent maneuvers, borrowed from some of the finest wrestlers in the world.

"What I do," Guerrero explained, "is watch a lot of wrestling. I get tapes from all over the world, I watch them, and I learn. I can see somebody do a move, and if I like it, I can learn it immediately, just by watching.

Then I will add my own personal touch to it. When you get into that ring with me, you never know what I'm going to do. It changes every time."

Guerrero, who like Misterio wrestles under a mask, is also a split-second thinker and a master tactician. Many opponents have noticed that Guerrero seemed to "adopt" their moves during the match and actually used them to his advantage. Guerrero admits he has borrowed some of his moves but says he has invented a few, too.

"I'm always improvising," Guerrero said. "That's why I know I'm better than Misterio. No doubt about it. He knows it, too. Yeah, he's beaten me a few times, but it's always been a fluke."

There is no love lost between these two Mexican stars. Guerrero defeated Misterio, two falls to one, in the Rego Park match. One night later, they spit on each other before the match in Philadelphia started.

"I just wanted to let him know where he stands in my mind," Guerrero said.

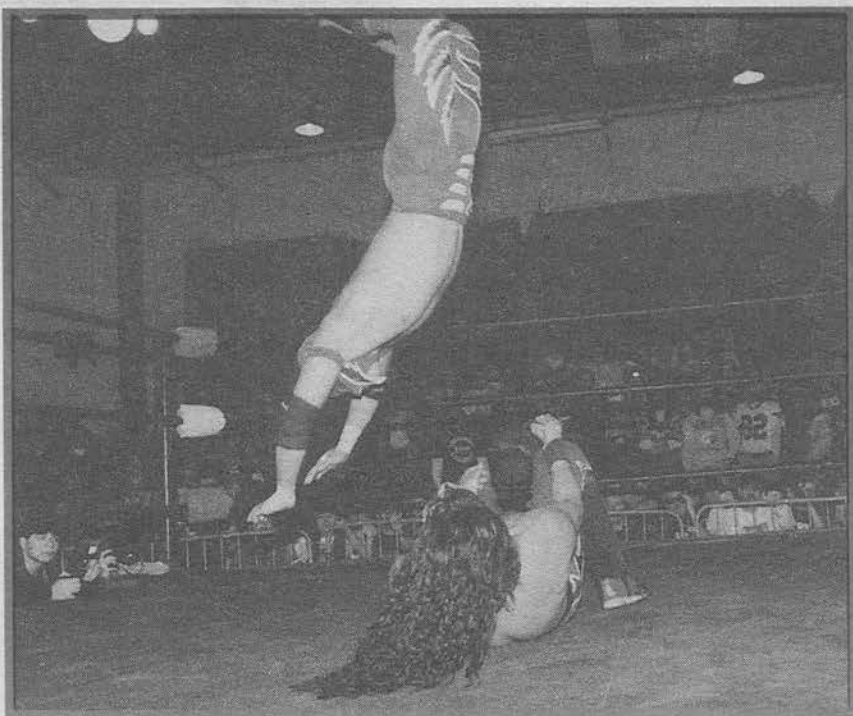


Misterio was thinking the same thing about him.

"I respect him," Misterio said, "but I do not like him."

Fortunately, mutual love is not a precondition for a great match; respect is enough. Misterio, who was out for revenge, started strongly and nearly pinned Guerrero early after a top-rope "Frankensteiner." A spinning rollup nearly got Guerrero again, then another "Frankensteiner" had him on the run. But things changed quickly when Guerrero scored with a brainbuster DDT. A back suplex finished off Misterio for the first fall.

Misterio opened the second fall with a rush, but Guerrero responded to everything. Guerrero whipped Misterio into the ropes for a dropkick, but Misterio ducked, and Guerrero struck the turnbuckle. Misterio scored with a "Frankensteiner," then leaped over the referee and the top rope and flipped onto Guerrero, who was standing outside the ring. By this time, the crowd was delirious with excitement, and a Misterio power bomb



In the end, Misterio's aerial acrobatics were too much for Guerrero in Philly. A handspring splash (above) and a moonsault outside the ring (below) led to a thrilling and rewarding win for Rey Jr.

finished the match at one fall apiece.

"I was thinking that I was one pin away from going home with two wins over him," Guerrero said. "That's all I would've needed."

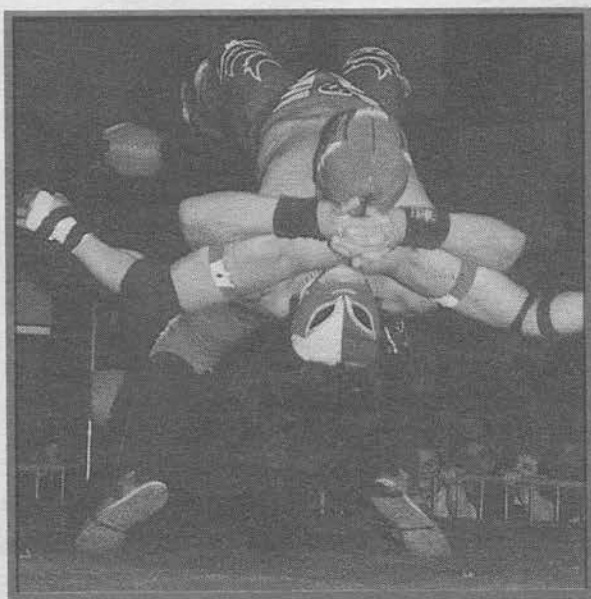
But Guerrero let the match get away. A series of dropkicks sent Misterio to the canvas, then the action spilled outside the ring and into the crowd for a series of daring moves. Guerrero struck with a power bomb. The action returned to the ring, and Misterio connected with yet another "Frankensteiner." Guerrero then used a "Razor's Edge" from the top rope. Thanks a million, Razor! Misterio reversed it into a "Frankensteiner" and got the pin.

"That was a very tough loss," Guer-



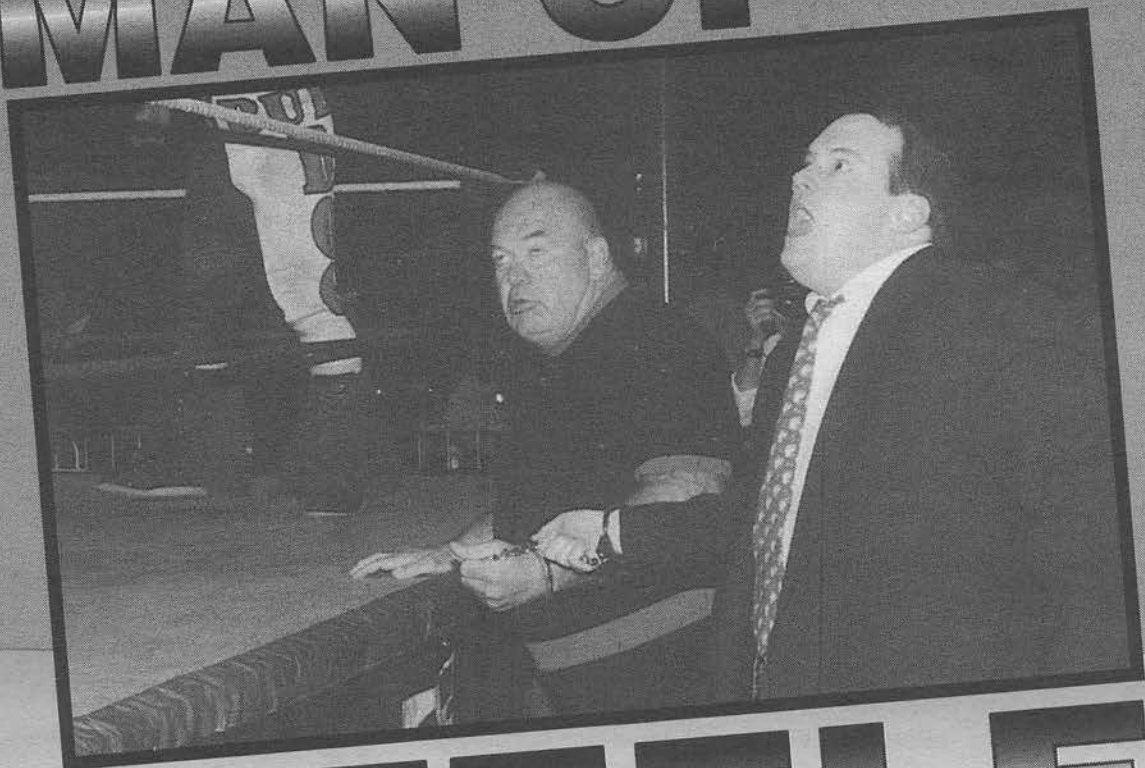
rrera said, "but there'll be other nights."

Nine days later in Tijuana, Konnan's interference led to another victory for Misterio over Guerrero. If the truth must be known, Misterio is no fraud. But, win or lose, Guerrero's the real thing, too. □

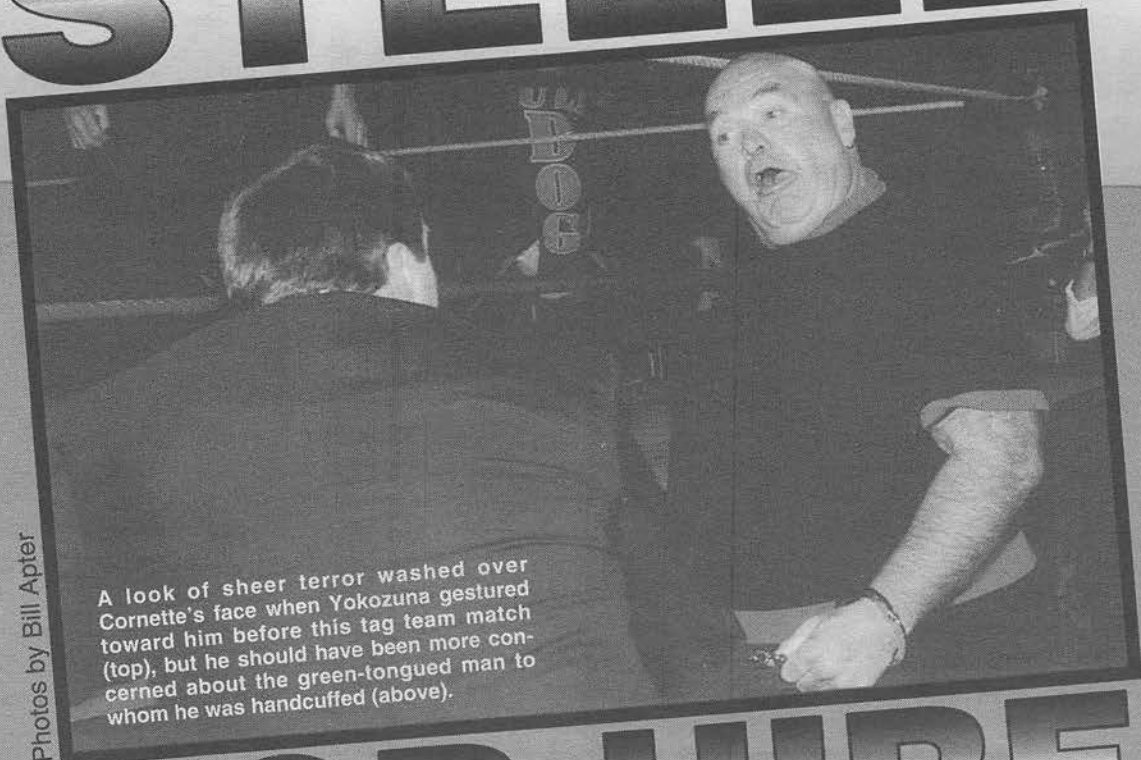


Guerrero was at an advantage in the best-of-three-falls match in Philadelphia when he won the first fall with a back suplex. Maybe he took his rival a bit too lightly, though. Misterio came back strong.

# MAN OF



# STEELE



Photos by Bill Apter

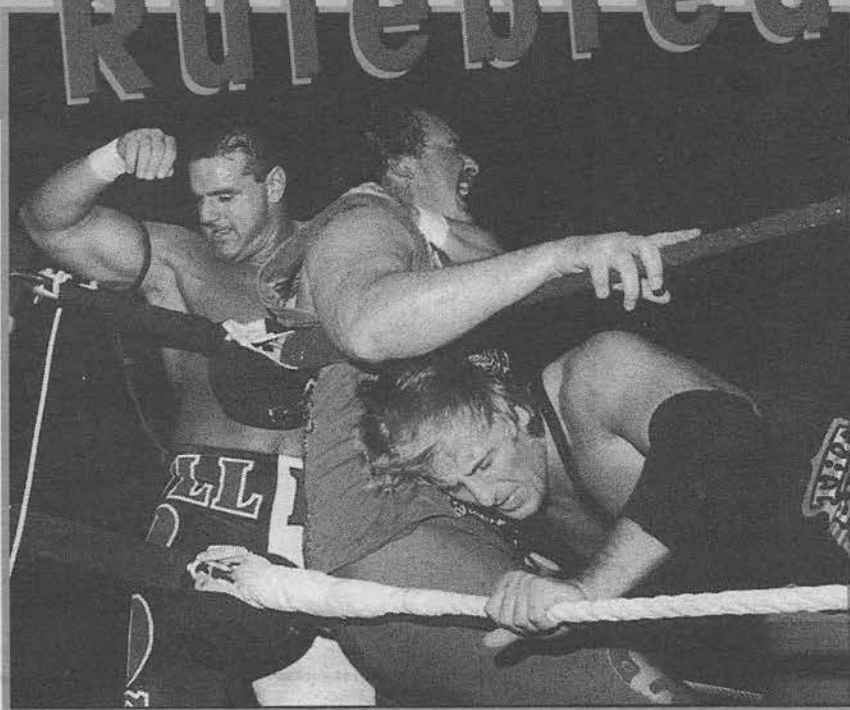
A look of sheer terror washed over Cornette's face when Yokozuna gestured toward him before this tag team match (top), but he should have been more concerned about the green-tongued man to whom he was handcuffed (above).

# FOR HIRE



George Steele can give advice on more than just the etiquette of turnbuckle consumption. The new consultant/confidante to WWF fan favorites is giving them his bird's-eye and green-tongued view on the finer points of rulebreaking

# George Goes Animal Over Rulebreaking!



Cornette, Owen Hart, and Davey Boy Smith were a confident trio before the match (top right), and Smith and Hart had their moments against Jake Roberts in the match (above). Cornette, however, had no chance to interfere.

By Steve Anderson

EVER SINCE HE was about 11 years old, Jim Cornette dreamed of the day he would become a wrestling manager. He watched hours upon hours of wrestling on TV and envisioned all the rulebreakers he would one day represent. One wrestler he paid particular attention to was George "The Animal" Steele. He admired the reckless abandon that this fierce brawler would display against his opponents.

"Very few did it like Steele," recalled Cornette. "There was a time when I wanted the chance to stand in his corner and harness that brutality."

Most of the hopes of a youngster from Louisville obviously came to fruition. He has, for the most part, achieved the goals he set for himself. Recently, however, another wish of his came true when he stood in the same corner

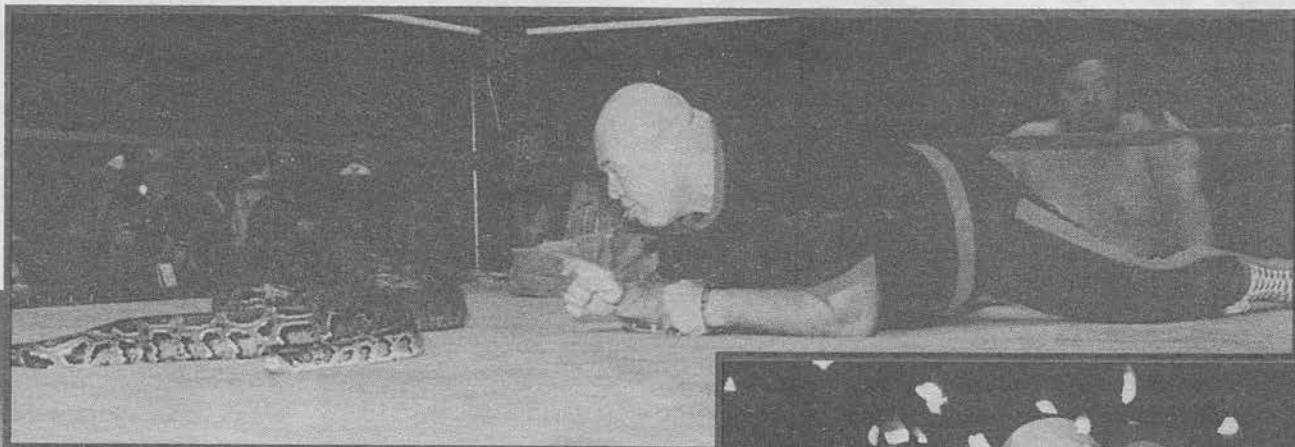
"The Animal" needed to be close to the manager—so very close.

But why Steele? Didn't he spend most of his career breaking federation rules and biting covers off turnbuckles. Younger fans might remember him as the misunderstood hero who toiled under the tutelage of Capt. Lou Albano and fawned over Elizabeth in the late-1980s. That kind of behavior came at the end of his career,

Thomas Pilliard.

"Whatever Steele was in the past is all wasted away," Cornette said. "That decrepit old fossil is a shell of what he used to be. They had to handcuff my racket hand so I wouldn't lay that senior citizen out."

The reformed rulebreaker provides more than a physical presence when he's at ringside. He offers insight to the wily ways of



How did George Steele celebrate his team's victory? He looked for a tongue-to-tongue encounter with Jake's snake (above)! Of course he also couldn't resist doing a little chomping on some turnbuckle stuffing, too (right).

with Steele. But as the old adage goes, be careful of what you wish for, Jimbo, because you just might get it.

There they were—Cornette and one of his idols standing side-by-side as Davey Boy Smith and Owen Hart battled Jake Roberts and Yokozuna in the ring. But it wasn't mutual admiration that linked the two together—it was a pair of handcuffs!

Roberts and Yoko, frustrated by Cornette's constant interference on behalf of his men, recruited the WWF Hall of Famer to help them neutralize the "Louisville Lip." Steele's mere presence in the arena, however, was not enough for Roberts and Yoko.

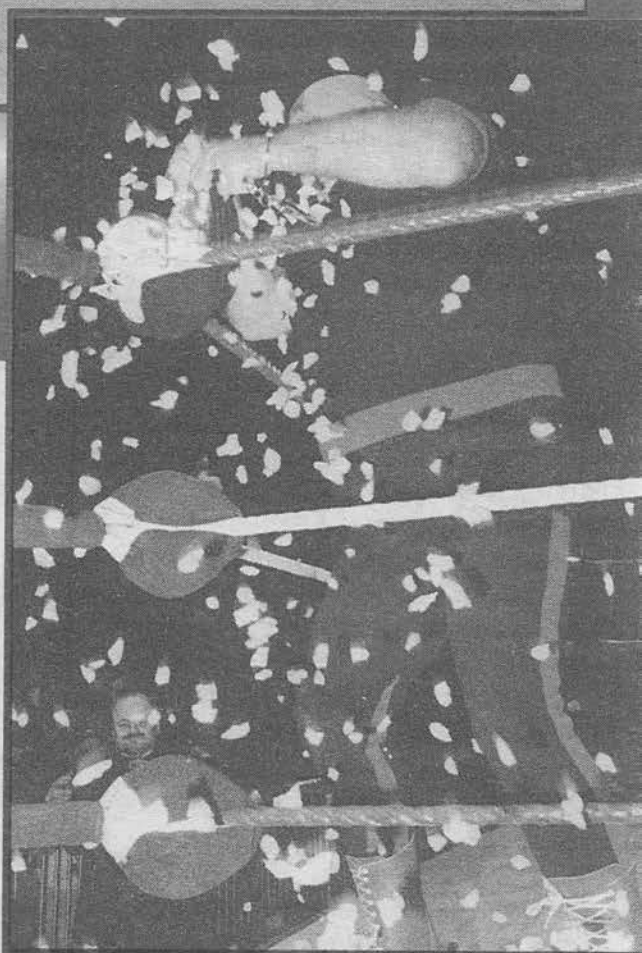
though. When he was in his prime, he tore apart more fan favorites than turnbuckle stuffings.

"Those days are behind me now, daddy!" said Steele. "But I won't forget 'em."

With those days of havoc behind him, Steele has now dedicated his life to helping the WWF's fan favorites.

"Steele put the word out that he would help any and all against the Jim Cornettes of the WWF," said WWF expert

the villainous element—men that, ironically, he once inspired to reside on the wrong side of those





wrestling tracks. Steele never intended to set an example with his actions years ago. It is as if he is now saying, "Do as I say, not as I do."

"If I ever had regrets about my career, it's that I may have been a hero to some," he reflected. "I'm destroying the very monsters that I may have created."

The handcuff incident with Cornette is the latest example of Steele's proactive approach. Roberts and Yokozuna immediately dispatched Steele

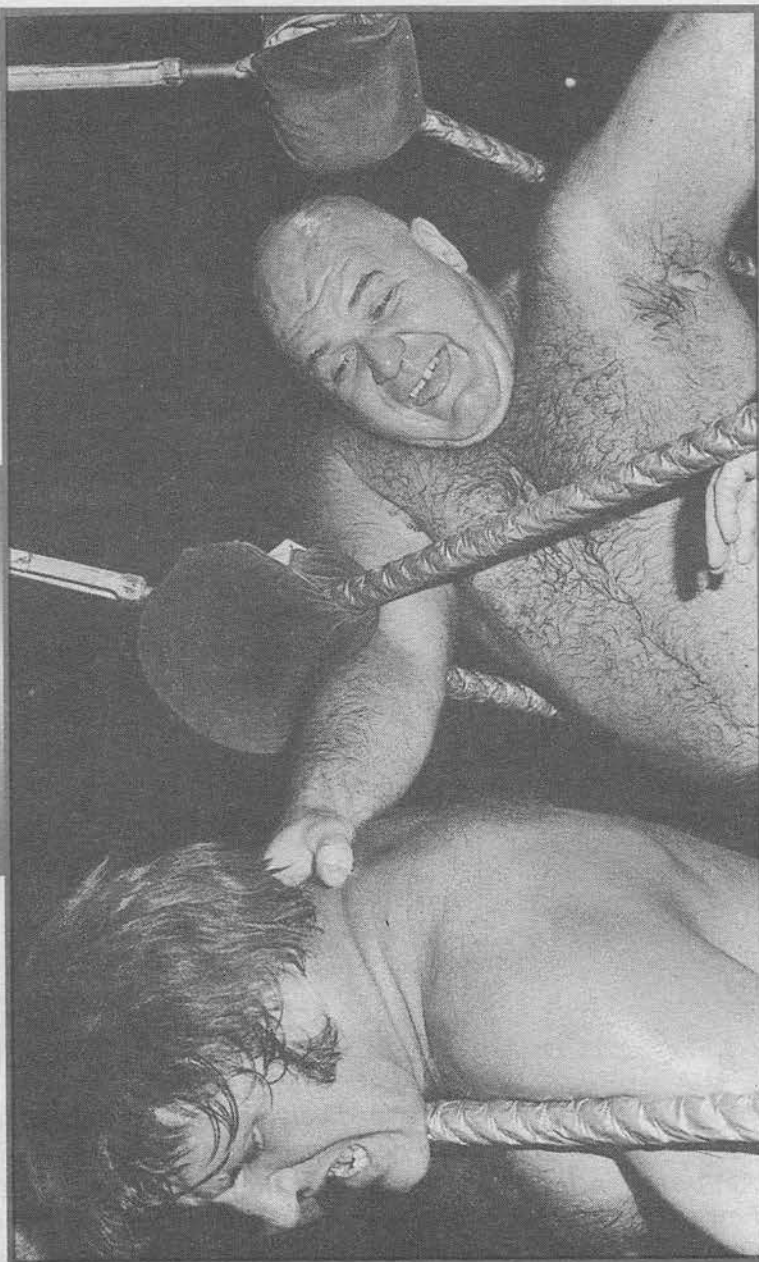
the most bizarre moment of the day. After the match, which Roberts and Yoko won, Jake fished his snake out of its bag. As the reptile slithered around the ring, Steele became enamored of it. In an odd display of public

and Yoko about what to watch for and how to combat it."

Add two recently reformed rule-breakers (Roberts and Yoko) to a veteran reformed rulebreaker (Steele) and you get a nasty combination. At least for one match, this one worked. Cornette was ineffective before, during, and after the match.

"If I can't do my job, what good am I?" questioned Cornette. "Steele had best keep his nose and colored tongue out of my business from now on."

There is no question that in his prime, Steele was one of the most dangerous rule-breakers around. He'd do anything to hurt stars such as Bruno Sammartino. It's still strange to see him helping out fan favorites.



to join them emotionally and Cornette physically. Anytime Cornette inched toward the ring, he was provided with a very painful reminder from his not-so-friendly sidekick.

"First of all, I have frail wrists," said Cornette. "That idiot could have easily broken a bone, and he's lucky he didn't, because I woulda had my personal attorney, Mr. Clarence Mason, on the case. But that wasn't the worst thing he did. I don't even want to talk about *that*!"

Cornette is referring to perhaps

affection, the pointed pink tongue of the snake met the large green tongue of "The Animal." Cornette was lucky he was not afforded the same consideration.

"Aside from the tongue incident, Steele provided more than brute force," said Pilliard. "Before the match, he actually advised Jake

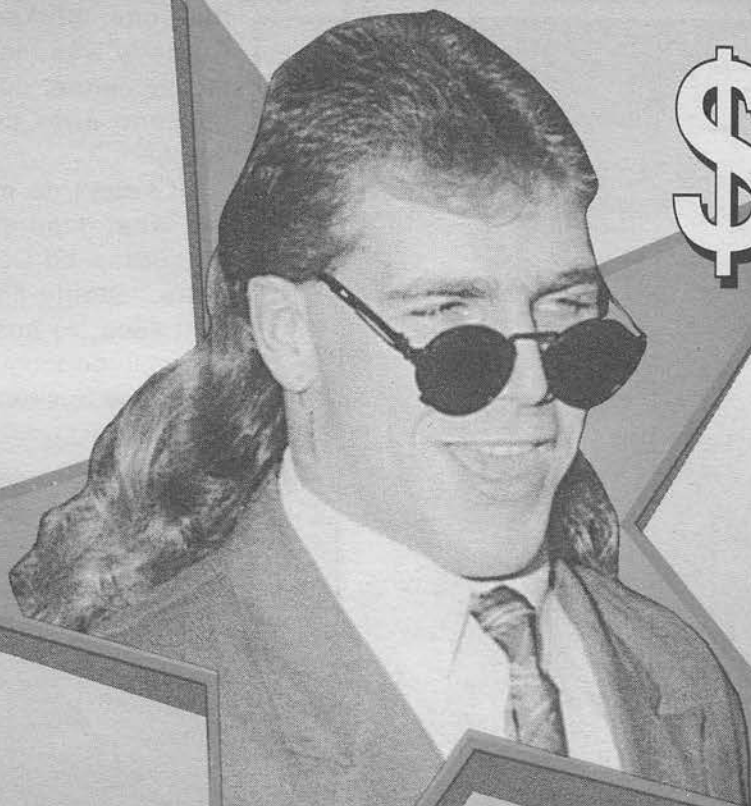
"I'll never regain what I had as a wrestler," said Steele, "but whenever I'm needed to take care of business, I'll be there for this new generation."

Go figure. George Steele—manager emeritus for the WWF. Instead of wreaking havoc, he is dispensing good, sensible advice. Instead of acting like a maniac, he is acting like a wise, experienced veteran. Instead of uttering, "nice" and "mine," his words now reveal his most ironic role of all.

A voice of reason in the WWF. □

**Experts predict that over the next 10 years, a new generation of stars will emerge as championship league leaders out of the ring, making them**

**\$50,000,000  
MILLION**



**By Dave Rosenbaum**

**T**HE TORCH HAS been passed, and Shawn Michaels and Sting are holding it. They are the choices of wrestling's new generation of fans, and it couldn't have happened at a better time, when endorsement money is plentiful for successful athletes.

The opportunities are mind-boggling for Sting and Michaels, who are both still relatively young,

*very charismatic, and very popular. They could be extraordinarily rich men by the year 2006. Here's how we think they could make their first \$50-million:*

## **SHAWN MICHAELS**

**\$500,000** from his first movie. Movie directors would be likely to cast Michaels in his first role as a leading man in an action film.

**\$500,000** from Boy Toys. A full line of Shawn Michaels action figures would appeal to young boys and girls, either as an accompaniment to Barbie Dolls or for fantasy fighting purposes. A wardrobe line for the figures would accompany the Boy Toys.

**\$1,000,000** from various fitness-food endorsements, including a line of energy bars that could quickly outsell all the established brands on the market. He becomes a role model in the fitness world.



# 10 years, Sting and Shawn Michaels rulers in the ring and endorsement in the sport's first and only ...

# 100,000 MEN!



**\$1,250,000** from a line of Shawn Michaels Active and Leisure Wear for the Physically Fit. Stunned by Michaels' ring appearance and the reaction it receives, a top European designer contracts Michaels to help design and market a line of clothing that accentuates the athletic body. Called The Heartbreak Collection, the clothes are an immediate hit because of their comfort and look.

**\$1,750,000** from his second movie. Off the lukewarm success

of his first movie, directors remain encouraged by Shawn's screen appeal, but this time cast him as the male lead in a romantic comedy.

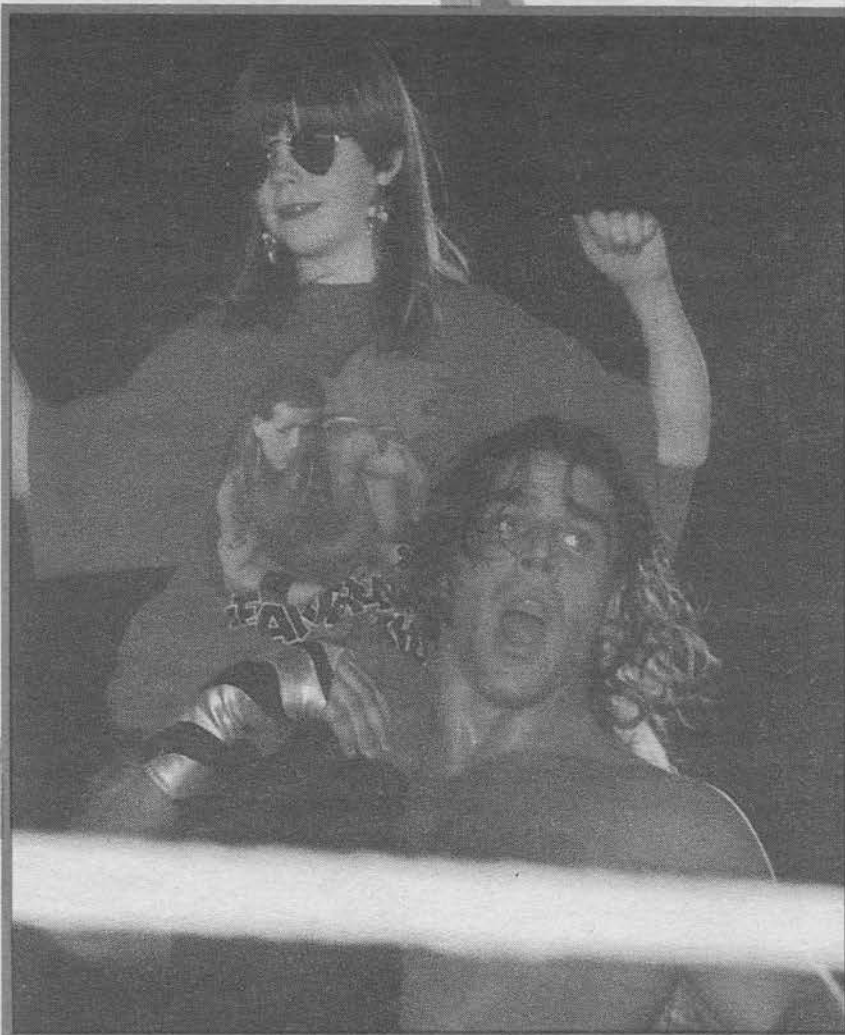
**\$2,000,000** from the endorsement of a line of high-quality leather boots.

**\$2,000,000** from hardcover sales of his book, *Heartbreak Hotel: The Life Of Shawn*. The book tracks Michaels' rise from skinny kid to strapping athlete, then follows him on his rise to the

WWF World title. The stick-with-it story becomes a hit with motivational groups.

**\$3,000,000** from softcover sales of *Heartbreak Hotel*.

**\$3,500,000** from a five-year contract signed with the WWF near the end of 1996. The guaranteed contract makes Michaels the federation's highest paid wrestler since Hulk Hogan and includes clauses that guarantee payment even if an in-ring injury ends Michaels' career.



cast him in a romantic drama. Michaels has found his niche as a screen heartthrob.

**\$7,500,000** from Nike's first venture into wrestling gear with Michaels as the main spokesman. He becomes to Nike and wrestling what Michael Jordan is to basketball and Nike.

**\$10,500,000** in net profits over a six-year period after the establishment of the Shawn Michaels Wrestling School and Gym in San Antonio, Texas. It quickly grows into a chain, with eight outlets in the United States and one in Japan.

## STING

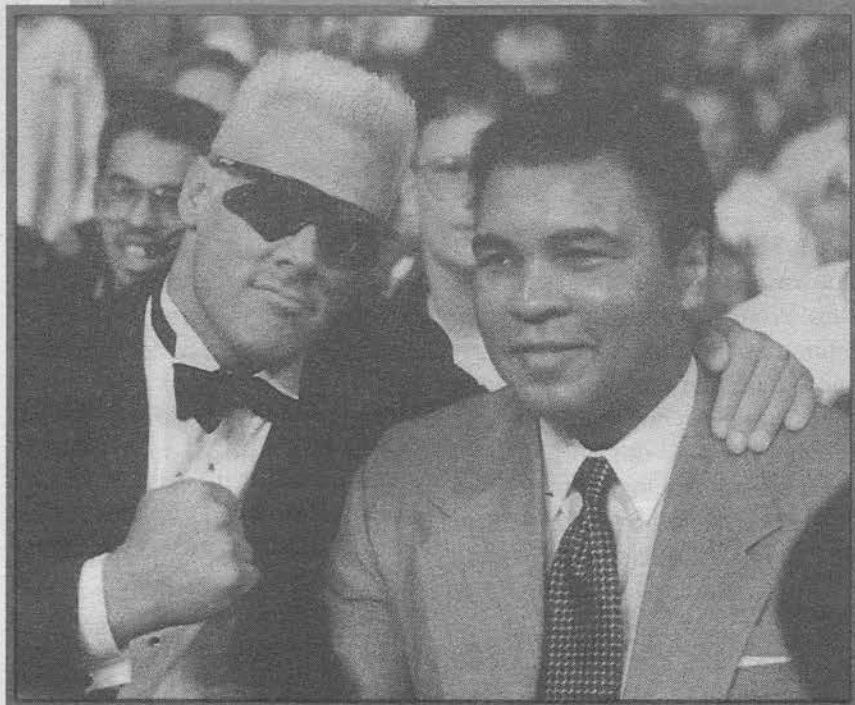
**\$250,000** from a line of Sting decorative Halloween face make-up kits.

**\$500,000** for one year for Sting to host a daily morning children's show. The program, an immediate success with parents who like Sting's clean-cut, all-American approach, becomes a weekday morning fixture.

**\$4,500,000** from hardcover and softcover sales of the sequel, *It's My Party ...* Again a big hit with motivational groups, this book is about what it takes to get to the top and how to stay there.

**\$5,000,000** from a five-year contract signed at the end of 2001 when the first contract expires. The contract ensures that Michaels will spend the remainder of his career in the WWF and provides for a \$1,000,000 bonus in the event that a WWF vs. WCW world champions match takes place and Michaels wins.

**\$7,000,000** from his third movie. The roaring success of Michaels' second screen appearance has producers bidding for his services and directors lining up script writers to





**\$900,000** from a two-year contract signed with WCW in 1996.

**\$1,000,000** for one year after Sting takes over the lead role in a revamped version of *Thunder In Paradise*, formerly Hulk Hogan's star vehicle.

**\$1,000,000** for his first movie, in 1999, an action-adventure co-starring Jackie Chan.

**\$3,000,000** from a three-year contract signed with WCW after the WWF makes a serious bid for his services. Afraid of losing the man who has become the federation's biggest drawing card, Ted Turner antes up.

**\$3,000,000** from a line of Sting active wear, exact duplicates of the colorful outfits he wears into the ring.

**\$5,000,000** for three years to do an action-adventure show on a major network. Although the show has its share of violence, Sting assures in meetings with producers and directors that the violence won't be graphic and will not be the focal point of the program. It quickly becomes a hit.



**\$5,000,000** for his second movie, which comes off the rousing success of his first film. Another action-adventure, this one starring Chan, and Jamie Lee Curtis as the love interest, it's the highest grossing movie of the year 2000 and leads to ...

**\$4,000,000** in residuals from videotape sales and rentals of the film and ...

**\$2,000,000** off related merchandise sales, including books, magazines, action figures, and T-shirts.

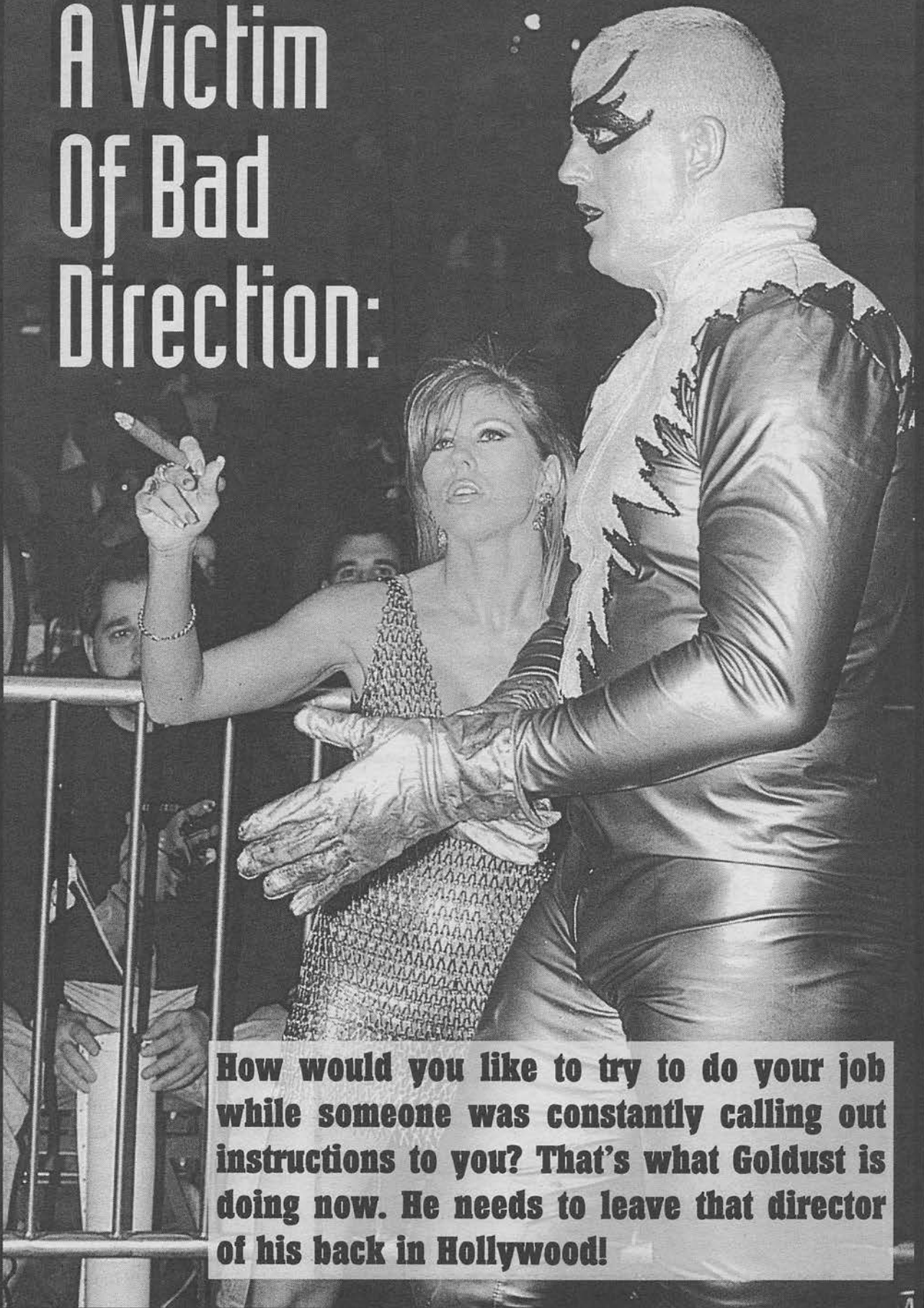
**\$5,350,000** from McDonald's restaurants for the McStinger, a low-fat, low-calorie vegetable burger served on a bulky role with yogurt dressing.

**\$7,000,000** from a five-year contract that ensures Sting will wrestle in WCW for the rest of his career. The contract is signed after WCW wins another bidding war, this time with the WWF and several Japanese federations.

**\$12,000,000** in profits from a restaurant Sting opens in Atlanta along with Atlanta Braves star Fred McGriff and former Atlanta Hawks star Dominique Wilkins. The restaurant is styled along the lines of the Hard Rock Cafe and features a sports motif. The best part of the restaurant is a regulation ring in which Sting occasionally wrestles charity matches. □



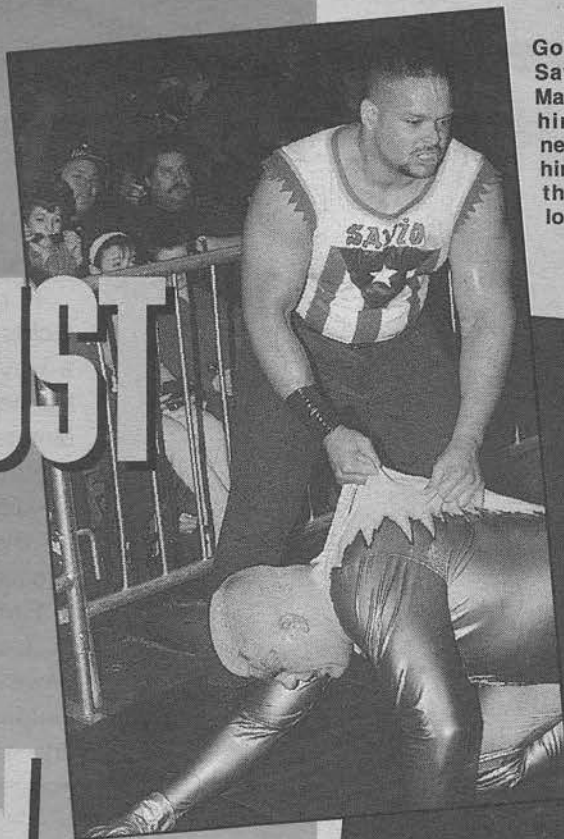
# A Victim Of Bad Direction:

A black and white photograph of the professional wrestler Goldust. He is wearing a shiny, form-fitting leather suit with a large maple leaf design on the back and shoulder. He has a shaved head and dramatic black eye makeup. He is holding the arm of a woman in a sequined dress, who is looking up at him. They are behind a metal crowd control barrier. Other fans are visible in the background.

**How would you like to try to do your job while someone was constantly calling out instructions to you? That's what Goldust is doing now. He needs to leave that director of his back in Hollywood!**



# WHY GOLDUST MUST THROW MARLENA OFF THE SET— NOW!



Goldust gets manhandled by Savio Vega outside the ring. Marlena was unable to help get him out of this trouble. He needs to learn to do more for himself or he won't stay near the top of the WWF much longer.

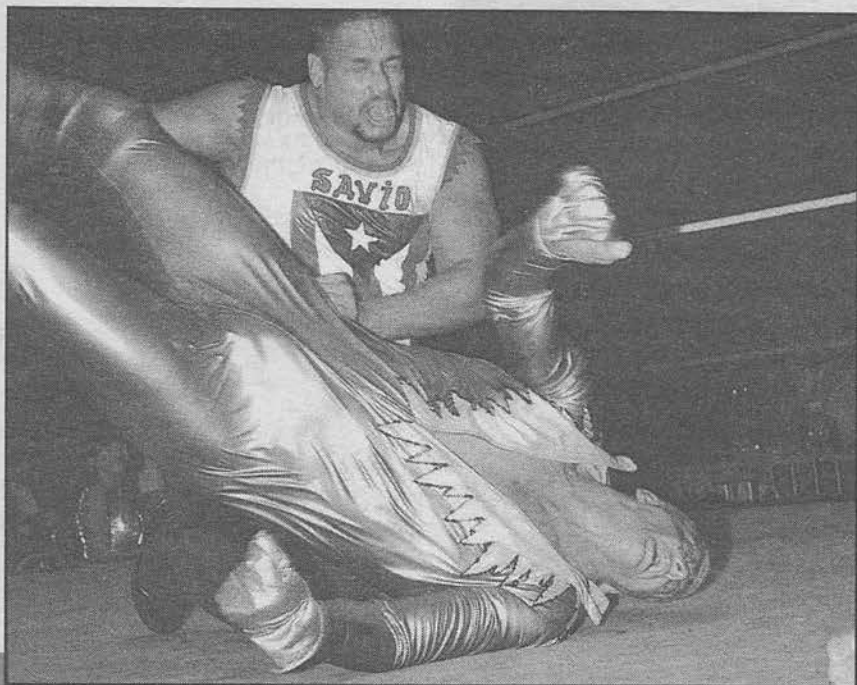


Often when he's in trouble in the ring, Goldust will make his way back to his corner so he can hear Marlena's instructions more clearly. Instead of helping him, though, she might be confusing him.

By Bryan Ethier

THE DIRECTOR SAT back in her easy chair and crossed a pair of cocoa tan legs that seemed to stretch all the way from the plush carpet to the ceiling of the studio. She gazed upon the sparsely decorated movie set before her, then summoned an assistant with a nod of her head.

"I want closeups," she whispered in a smoky cold voice. "I want his passion to pour through the camera. There can be no doubt of his intentions. Everyone in the WWF is going to remember the name ... Goldust."



Sometimes after getting pounded into the canvas by someone such as Vega (above), Goldust will get word from Marlena (right) that it's time to head to the locker room and take a countout loss. Is this the mark of a good adviser?

The director waved off the assistant with a brush of her hand, then reached into a small leather handbag and withdrew a thick Cuban cigar.

As she put the cigar to her pouting cherry lips, another male assistant rushed over with a lighter. She took a puff, then drew deeply from the cigar. She felt the bitter smoke burn in her lungs. She felt the power the nicotine gave her.

"Action!" she shouted.

On the set, a strange-looking figure wrapped in what appeared to be gold cellophane began talking. His face was painted gold, his lips as black as coal. When he spoke, it was in a hushed whisper, as if he were afraid to utter the wrong words.

"Pan the stage!" the director barked. "Goldust, move up to center stage. Dominate the floor. Talk louder. Reach the audience!"

Goldust listened intently to every



word Marlena said. He began to speak of a man named Roddy Piper. The president of the WWF at the time. A man Goldust would one day confront. A man who would one day humiliate Goldust.

The director nodded her approval, as her "actor" *became* the role he was trying to convey for this video.

At last the video was complete. The set reeked of pungent cigar smoke, but none of the director's assistants complained. They knew who was running the show. Goldust *knew* who was the boss—the director, Marlena.

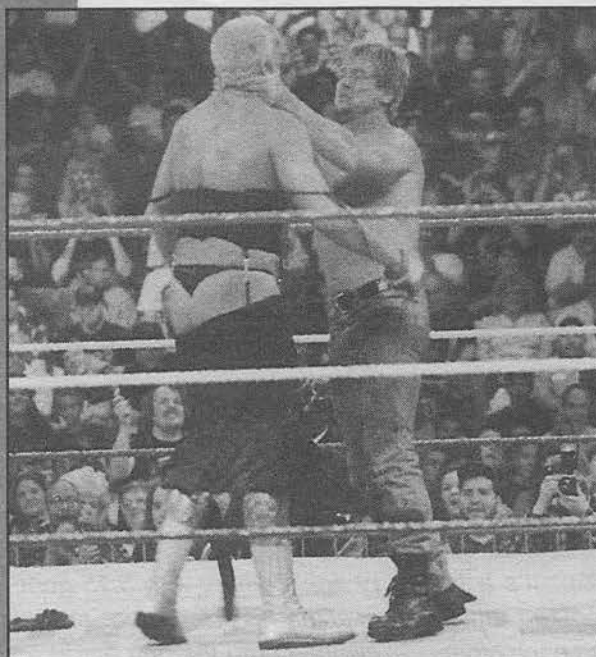
It has been this way since Goldust entered the WWF amidst a wave of controversy last year. He has been the pupil, she, the director. Theirs is a love/hate relationship, fueled by Marlena's unquestionable power and authority over her friend/video star/wrestler.

Her role as the domineering boss transcends the silver screen, however. Yes, Marlena does tell Goldust when to smile, when to cry, when to pout on camera. But

more important, during his wrestling matches, she sits ring-side, the ever-watchful director of her charge's career and life. She is the puppet master, he the marionette. For in the ring Marlena not only dictates the tempo Goldust sets; she will, on occasion, call in moves for him to perform during the matches.



Marlena has to take some of the responsibility for Goldust's humiliation at the hands of Roddy Piper. She helped him antagonize Piper in the first place. We wonder if she chooses his clothes for him, too.



But how much does a video director/part-time wrestling manager know about wrestling maneuvers, tactics, and strategies? A tough question. The answer may clue fans in to the motives behind Goldust's often unorthodox ring behavior.

"I don't think she has any business being at ringside," said former manager Gary Hart. "There are some good, smart female managers—women like Sunny. But Marlena seems to do more than just manage Goldust. She operates him like a machine. Goldust doesn't even have a chance to think in the ring. Ever notice how frequently he races out of the ring during a match? I think it's because he's confused. He's got his own idea of how he wants to go about winning the match, but then she's always telling him what to do.

"No manager should be constantly yelling out instructions during a match. They should discuss strategy beforehand and then she should leave the wrestling to him. Goldust's mind must be completely mixed up."

There may be no figuring Goldust or Marlena, but one unquestionable fact stands up: Goldust is

the Intercontinental champion. Somehow, through the ever-present confusion, in spite of Marlena's suppressive control over him, he won—and retains—that belt.

"Give it time, brother," advised Capt. Lou Albano. "He'll lose that belt soon, and it'll be that weird woman's fault. She's messin' with his head, and that's bad news!"

So why doesn't Goldust simply sever his ties with this mind-master?

"Why doesn't a junkie give up his fix?" said WWF expert Thomas

Pilliard. "Keep in mind that the public only sees these two when they are in the arenas. You don't see them training in the gym. Behind closed doors they seem to have a quiet understanding of each other. They feel like it's the two of them against everyone else in the WWF. They feel like they need each other. The only place she's hurting him is in matches. Maybe he doesn't even realize it."

Training together may make for an amicable marriage, but this relationship will be put to the test when Goldust is forced to square off against more and more of the WWF's best wrestlers.

And that day seems to have already come. Sources say it was Marlena who convinced Goldust to confront The Ultimate Warrior during an interview segment at the April 1 taping of *WWF Monday Night Raw*. The first few Goldust-Warrior matches were totally one-sided. Goldust seemed so confused and overmatched that he fled the ring, followed by his director.

It could be just the beginning of the humiliations in the ring for Goldust. The sooner he realizes he does not need a director in his corner, the better off he will be. □



It seems Marlena is with Goldust wherever he goes these days. She was at his side when he presented an award at the Slammys. It's no problem if she makes public appearances with him, but she ought to stay away from ringside.

# THE BODYDONNAS

## "WHERE ARE OUR CRITICS NOW?"

**T**HEY ARE A team formed out of desperation. The Bodydonnas tag team probably never would have materialized if Skip hadn't gone into a horrible slump when he came to the WWF. Manager Sunny searched for answers and came up with the perfect tag team partner: Zip. It's a fast-paced combination of three fitness-crazed athletes who couldn't have done better than find each other.

Although Skip and Zip initially struggled as a team, they soon began clicking with victories over Aldo Montoya and Bob Holly and other duos. They lost to then-WWF World tag team champions The Smokin' Gunns at the 1996 Royal Rumble, then got their big break when Billy Gunn suffered a neck injury. The WWF ordered a tournament for the vacant title.

With Sunny playing a key role, the Bodydonnas reached the finals at WrestleMania XII, where they met Henry and Phineas Godwinn, a team that had previously beaten them numerous times. The Godwinns looked like they were on their way to victory again when, with 5:15 gone, Phineas prepared to execute his "slop drop" on Skip. That's when Sunny climbed onto the ring apron and flashed Phineas her derriere. It was enough of a distraction for Skip to roll up Phineas for the pin and the belts.

Skip and Zip sat down with Photo Editor Jason Ross Lavin shortly afterward to discuss the WrestleMania XII victory. "They didn't admit to any of the charges against them," Lavin reported. "I wasn't surprised."

**JASON LAVIN:** Unbelievable ...

*The Bodydonnas are the WWF World tag team champions. What do you have to say about that?*

**SKIP:** We told you so.

**ZIP:** Yeah, we knew this would happen all along.

**LAVIN:** That shows you have a lot of confidence in yourselves. Were you really so sure, even when things weren't going well?

**SKIP:** When was that?

**ZIP:** I have no idea what he's talking about. He must be talking about all the people who didn't believe we could do it.

**LAVIN:** Actually, I guess we numbered among your critics. I believe we wrote that Sunny should move on to someone bigger and better.

**SKIP:** Bigger than me?

**ZIP:** Better than me?

**SKIP:** Forget it! Hey, Lavin, where are our critics now?

**LAVIN:** I guess one of them is right here, questioning the way you won the belts. It wasn't exactly what I'd call a classic wrestling exhibition, although I'd definitely call it a classic exhibition.

**SKIP:** Hey, that Sunny, she's something, isn't she?

**LAVIN:** She sure is something, although I'm not sure what. She's beautiful and she's

bright, but even you guys have to admit she's the main reason you won the belts.

**ZIP:** One of the main reasons.

**SKIP:** Yeah, there's enough credit to go around.

**LAVIN:** Come on, let's face it: Phineas Godwinn would have had you finished off, Skip, if Sunny didn't flash her buns.

**ZIP:** That's not a crime.

**SKIP:** That's right, Phineas Godwinn didn't have to look if he didn't want to. She did what she felt like doing. It's a free country, right, pal?

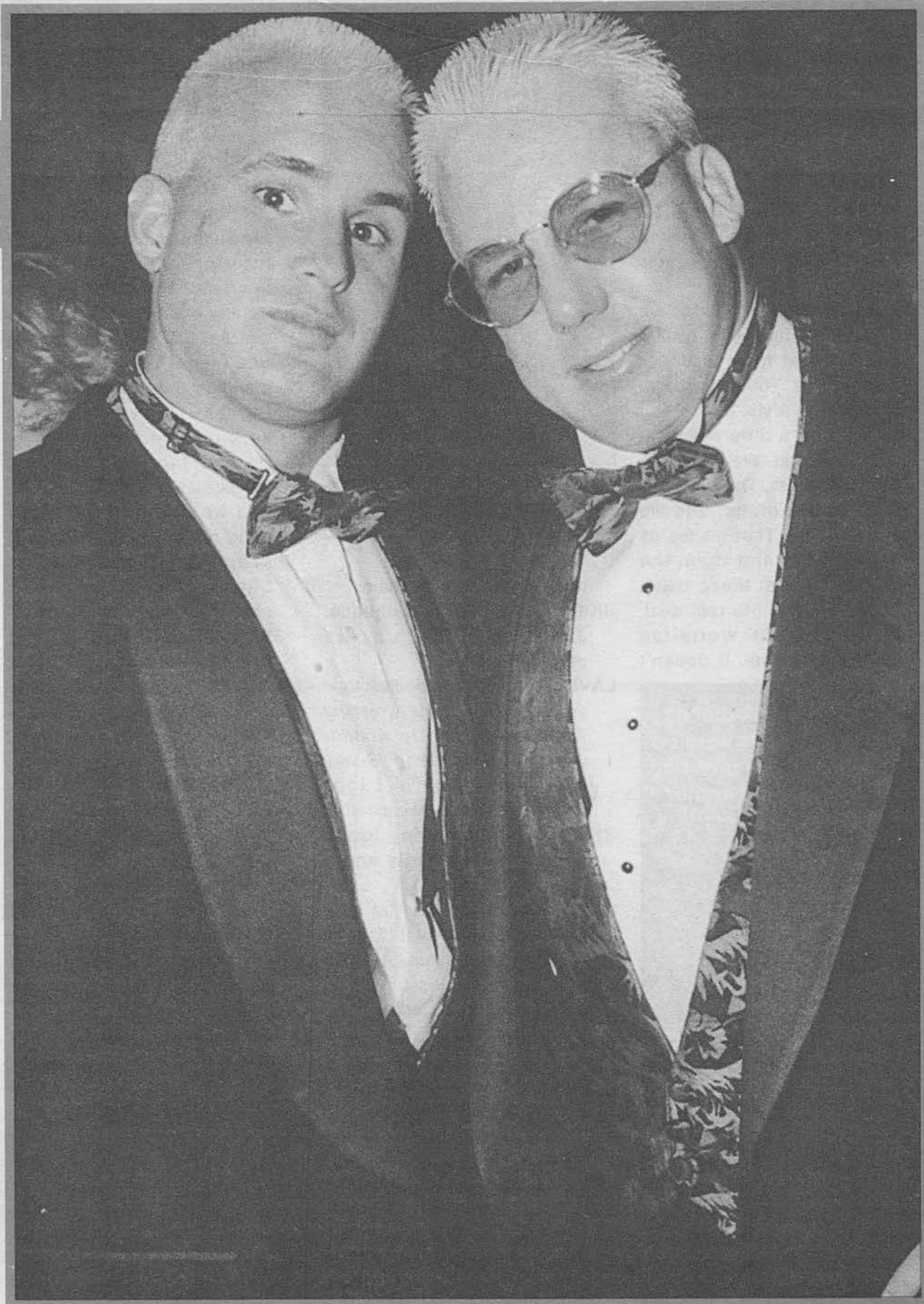
**LAVIN:** But is that any way to win your first World title together?

**SKIP:** Any way is a good way. She's part of our team. Sunny's been with me for a long time, and The Bodydonnas was her idea. I'm not too proud to admit that. Sunny has done a lot for me

"Sunny has done a lot for me and Zip, but if you think she won the belts for us, well, I think we deserve a little more credit than that."

—Skip

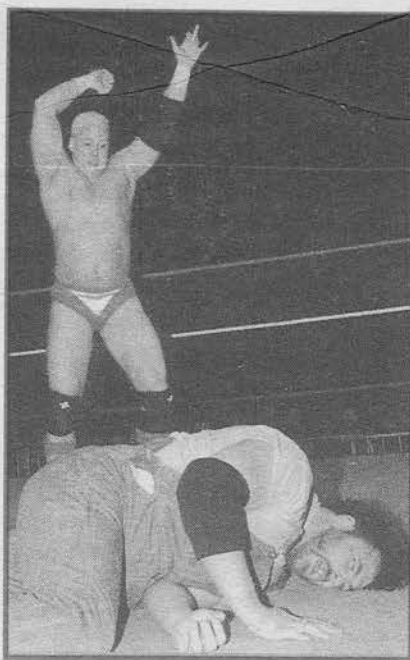




and Zip, but if you think she won the belts for us, well, I think we deserve a little more credit than that.

**LAVIN:** *I'm not so sure about that. Not only did it look like the Godwinns would beat you again, but it looked like they would beat you in under six minutes. Is that any way to lose the biggest match of your lives?*

**ZIP:** But they didn't win, we didn't lose, and as it turned out, we beat *them* in under six minutes. You're too concerned with style, Lavin. You have to be a little more results oriented. We won. The Godwinns lost. The big belts were up for grabs, and we grabbed 'em. That makes us the winners and them the losers. Look at these belts, Lavin. They're the real deal. We're the WWF World tag team champions. It doesn't



Zip takes aim at a fallen Henry Godwinn. Many said he and Skip would never gel as a team, but after struggling for a while, they're now wrestling like champs.

matter how we won them.

**SKIP:** Yeah, give us a chance. Judge us by the way we defend the title.

**LAVIN:** *I'm willing to do that, and so is the rest of the wrestling world, but I have to wonder what would happen if Sunny ever showed up in baggy pants and a loose sweatshirt.*

**SKIP:** Actually, Sunny looks great in baggy pants and a loose sweatshirt.

**LAVIN:** *Maybe so, but I'm sure Phineas could've kept his eyes off her in that getup. Are you guys ever jealous of all the attention Sunny's getting? She has her own music video that's on WWF TV all the time, she's been the guest co-host of WWF Mania, Action Zone ...*

**SKIP:** We're not the least bit jealous. We're good for each other. The more attention she gets, the more attention The Bodydonnas get. She's the best manager around, and we're the best team. Case closed.

**LAVIN:** *But she takes credit for so much of your success, and all people talk about when it comes to that WrestleMania match is how she flashed Phineas and ...*

**ZIP:** You know, I'm really getting tired of this. What Phineas Godwinn does is his business. You talk about interference. Did Sunny interfere? No. Did she hand us any objects? No. Did she distract the referee? No. Not one illegal thing happened inside or outside of that ring. Phineas Godwinn couldn't keep his mind on business. He wasn't focused. That was the biggest match of his life, and he couldn't keep his mind off ... well, he couldn't keep his mind off Sunny. Sunny spotted a weakness and took advantage of it. Skip followed through and reversed the move.

**LAVIN:** *As much as it pains me to say this, you're right. Phineas should have ignored Sunny. But how could he? She's so ...*

**SKIP:** Shapely?

**LAVIN:** *Shapely. She's one of the most beautiful women in wrestling today.*

*(Sunny enters the room)*

**SUNNY:** Did I hear somebody talking about me?

**SKIP:** We were just talking about the WrestleMania match.

**SUNNY:** Oh, wasn't that the best match ever?

**LAVIN:** *We were discussing your special brand of interference.*

**SUNNY:** I didn't interfere. I didn't touch anybody. That pervert Phineas Godwinn just couldn't control himself, and he cost his team the belts.

**LAVIN:** *That's what Skip and Zip were saying.*

"We won. The Godwinns lost. The big belts were up for grabs, and we grabbed 'em ... It doesn't matter how we won them."

—Zip





"The more attention [Sunny] gets, the more attention The Bodydonnas get. She's the best manager around, and we're the best team. Case closed."

—Skip



**SUNNY:** Well, it's true. But I'm just here to listen. You guys go on with your little interview there. I'm just gonna sit here, be quiet, and let you boys do what you have to do.

**LAVIN:** Well, uh, Skip, I mean Zip, uh ...

**ZIP:** A little distracted, Lavin?

**SKIP:** Yeah, something on your mind?

**LAVIN:** No, nothing at all. What I wanted to ask you guys was, uh ... was whether you clicked as a team immediately, or whether it took some time.

**SKIP:** It didn't happen overnight, I'll tell you that much, but it was pretty close. I remember one time asking Sunny whether this thing was gonna work, and she told me to be patient. It took a little time before we were perfect together, but it was worth it.

**ZIP:** Yeah, he's the best partner I've ever had.

**LAVIN:** Why do you think the partnership works?

**SKIP:** Because both of us realize that it's important to keep in top physical condition and always look our best. I didn't think there was anybody else in the world that could keep up with me and Sunny, but Zip's done it. We're in

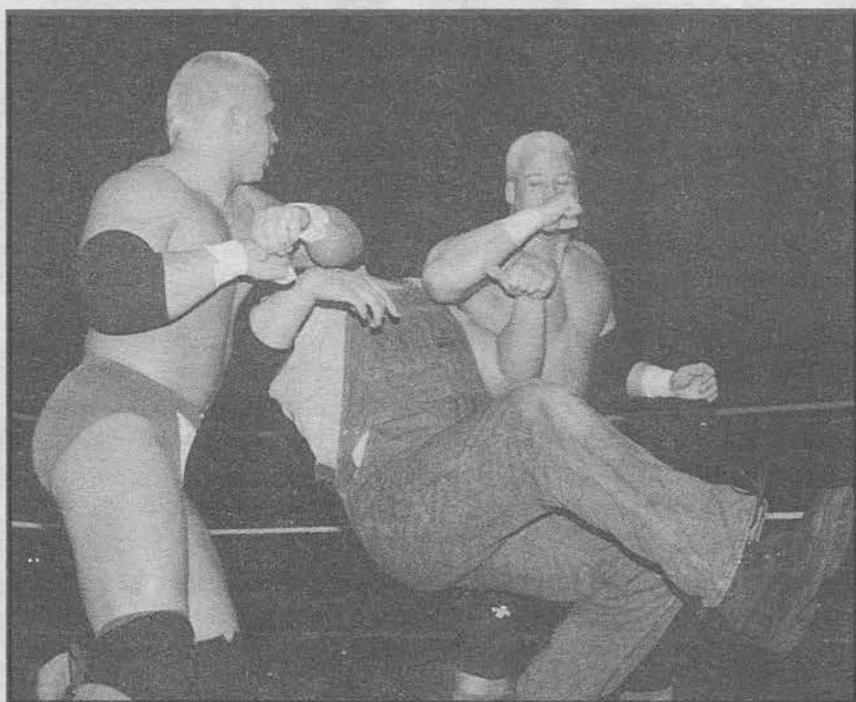
that gym at six in the morning every day, and Zip's always the first one raring to go.

**ZIP:** That's because I know a good thing when I see it.

**SUNNY:** So does Phineas Godwinn.

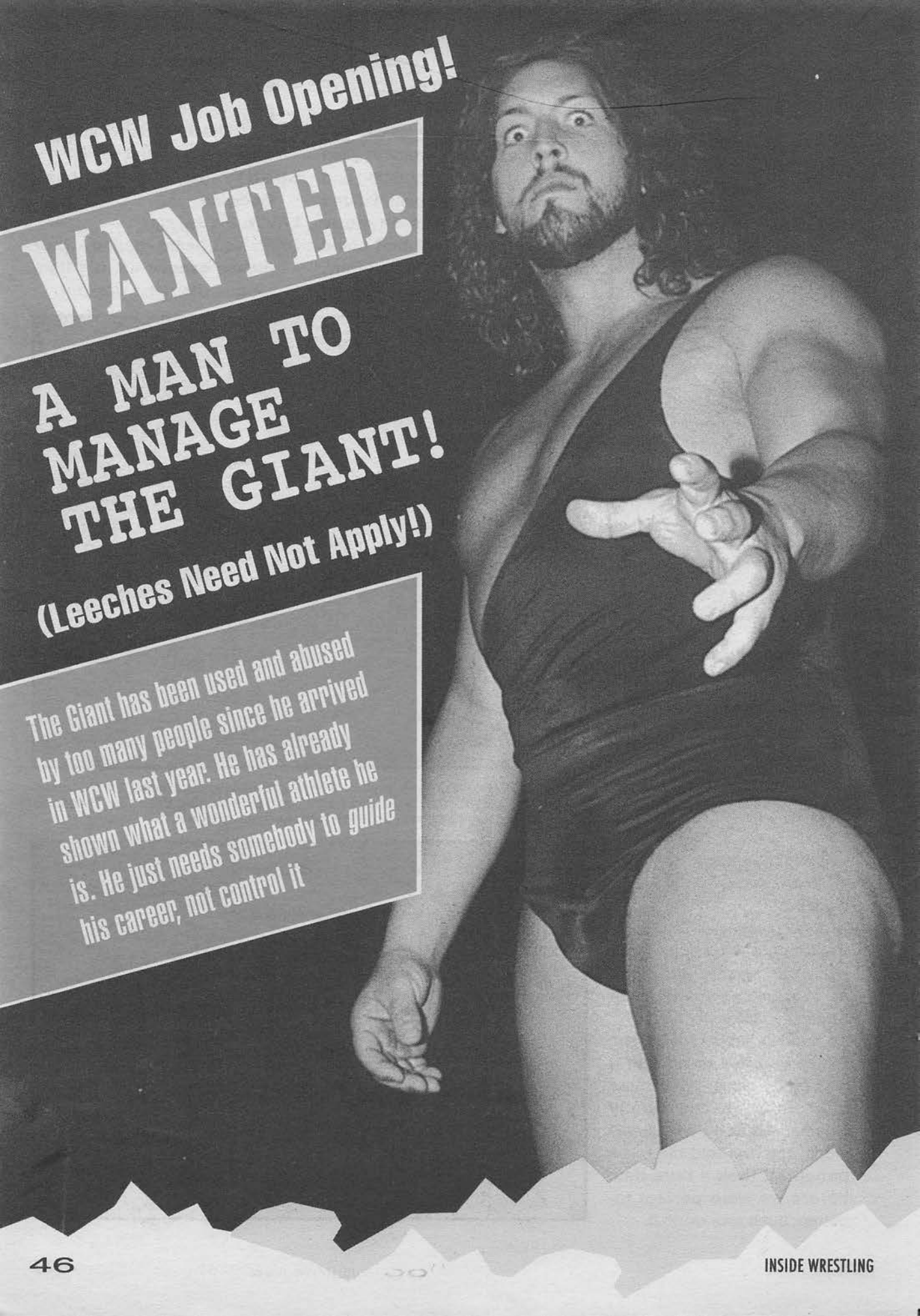
**LAVIN:** Excuse me?

**SKIP:** You heard the lady. Now please excuse us. It's time for our afternoon workout. □



Even though Skip and Zip always do a lot of double-teaming against the Godwinns (above), before WrestleMania they had a hard time beating them. But thanks to Sunny, they now finally have the WWF tag team belts (below).





**WCW Job Opening!**  
**WANTED:**

**A MAN TO  
MANAGE  
THE GIANT!**  
**(Leeches Need Not Apply!)**

The Giant has been used and abused by too many people since he arrived in WCW last year. He has already shown what a wonderful athlete he is. He just needs somebody to *guide* his career, not control it



By Brandi Mankiewicz

ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, Kevin Sullivan's eyes lit up the first time he saw The Giant. Sullivan was on a road trip scouting talent when he laid eyes on one of the biggest men he has ever seen.

"It was like love at first sight," said one observer. "You could just see Sullivan starting to salivate. He was thinking, *Here's the man who helps me bring down Hogan*. His mind was working a mile a minute. I'm surprised he waited even a few minutes to approach him."

Naturally, Sullivan wasn't salivating when he met The Giant later in the evening. He was a cool professional, a salesman calmly preaching the benefits of coming to WCW and joining the Dungeon of Doom. If Sullivan had any ulterior motives other than helping The Giant's career, he didn't show them.

"He was telling The Giant, 'You come first. I come last. You're what matters. You're everything,'" the observer said. "Can you believe that?"

The Giant believed it, and within weeks he was a member of Sullivan's Dungeon of Doom in WCW. The biggest and most prominent member, too. Sullivan didn't waste any time sending The Giant after Hulk Hogan and nearly acquired his most prized goal: the WCW World title.

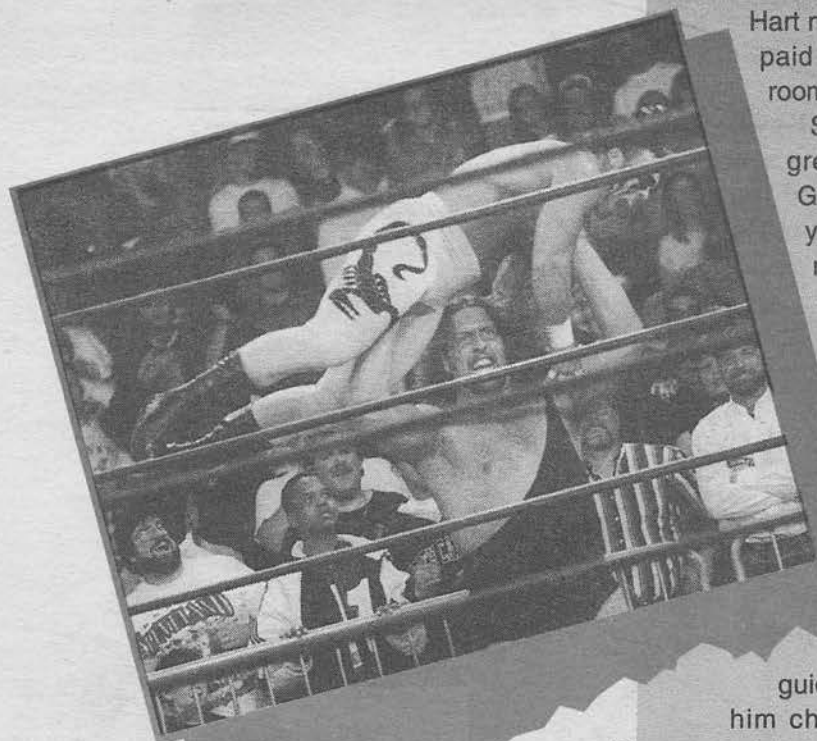
But The Giant couldn't take the final step to the throne, and it quickly became apparent that he had given his best effort and was going downhill. Hogan, as he has so often, brought a huge opponent down to size and neutralized him. And Sullivan was stunned.

So stunned, it seemed, that Sullivan no longer had control over The Giant, no longer felt that the world revolved around him. The Giant was a failure and Sullivan couldn't use him anymore. Their seemed to have ended with The Giant choke-slammng Sullivan.

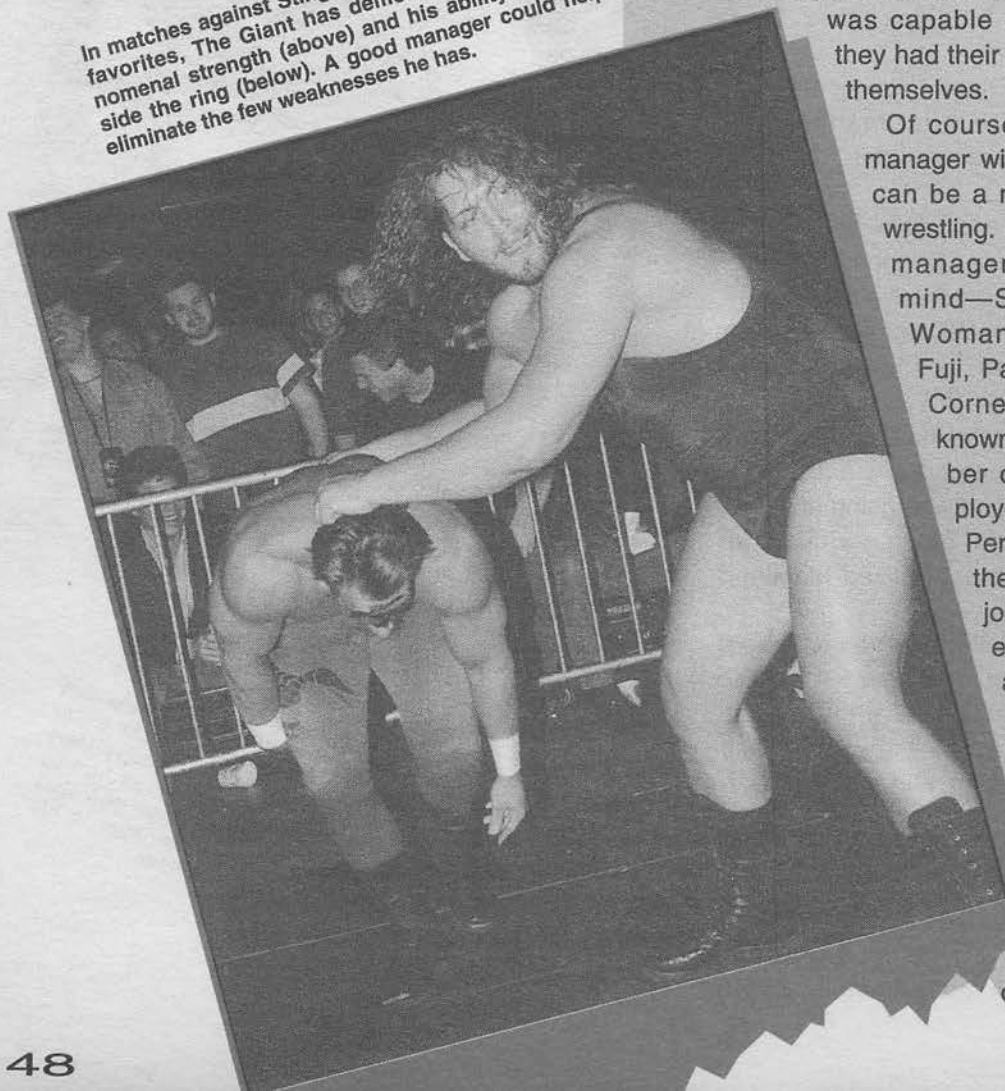
Enter Jimmy Hart, who extravagantly courted The Giant. They seemed like a perfect match: Hart had recently left Hulk Hogan and was hot for a feud. When The Giant and Sting were scheduled to team for a match against Harlem Heat,



The Giant was prepared to team with Sting at a recent edition of WCW Monday Nitro before Jimmy Hart intervened and convinced him to attack Sting. It's obvious now that The Giant needs a manager in his corner, not a manipulator.



In matches against Sting and other top-notch WCW fan favorites, The Giant has demonstrated both his phenomenal strength (above) and his ability to brawl outside the ring (below). A good manager could help him eliminate the few weaknesses he has.



Hart made sure the match never happened. He paid Harlem Heat to return to the dressing room and had The Giant beat up Sting.

Sounds great, right? Well, maybe it was great for Hart, but it did nothing for The Giant. Ever since coming to WCW late last year, he has been used by two scurrilous managers who are only out to make themselves look good. They offer lavish incentives that do little to hide their real intentions. The Giant has been caught in the middle.

He needs a manager. Some wrestlers do, some wrestlers don't. Andre the Giant's career took off when Frank Valois began managing him in Montreal. The Giant needs someone like Valois. He requires an intelligent, unselfish individual to guide his career, handle his finances, help him choose his opponents, give him sound advice about what he's doing right in the ring and what he's doing wrong, and steer him in the right direction. Neither Sullivan nor Hart was capable of doing this, because they had their minds on only one thing: themselves.

Of course, finding an unselfish manager without secondary motives can be a near impossible task in wrestling. Several candidates for a managerial position come to mind—Sunny, Sherri Martel, Woman, Bobby Heenan, Mr. Fuji, Paul E. Dangerously, Jim Cornette—but all have been known for looking out for number one, and most are employed by other promotions. Perhaps Elizabeth would be the perfect woman for the job, but she's obviously so enthralled by her position as First Lady of the Horsemen that it might be impossible to tear her away from Ric Flair.

The right man or woman for the job would be well-schooled in the art of conditioning for over-



Did The Giant try to destroy Hulk Hogan because he hated him or because Kevin Sullivan convinced him to do so? We may never know. What we do know is The Giant will be much better off if he severs all ties to Sullivan forever.

sized men, knowledgeable of the ins and outs of WCW politics, extremely patient, intelligent, and very aggressive. He or she would realize that The Giant is a young, raw wrestler who might still need some fine-tuning before he's ready to fight for a world title. He needs schooling and conditioning. The biggest mistake Sullivan ever made with The Giant was sending him right after Hogan, rather than working him slowly up the ladder and instilling confidence in him. Of course, Sullivan never had much interest in The Giant's future. He only wanted to destroy Hogan immediately.

Lou Thesz recently called The Giant, "a superstar waiting to happen, if only somebody would do their homework and teach him the right lessons. He has incredible untapped ability to go with his size, but he needs somebody to preach him patience."

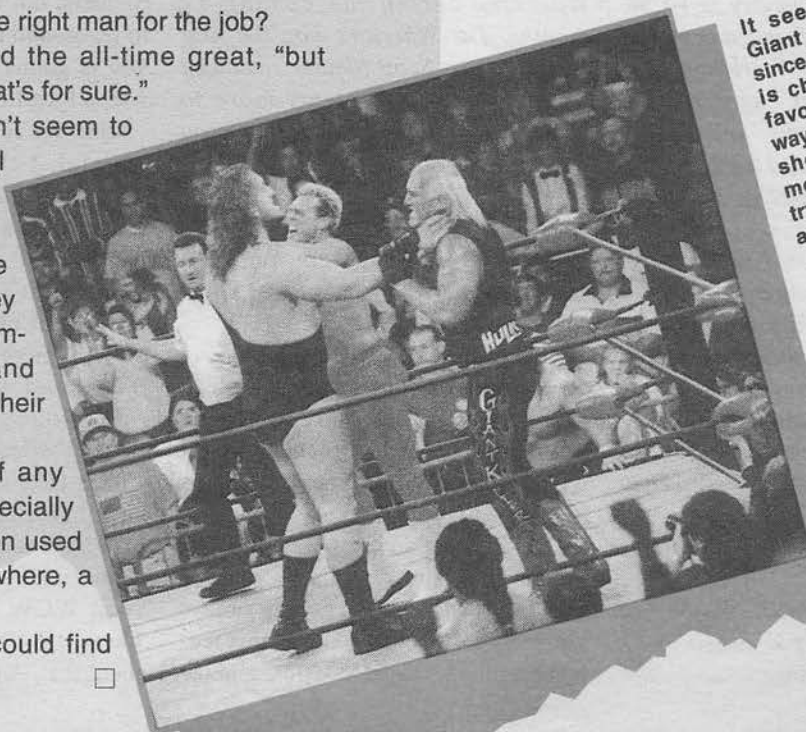
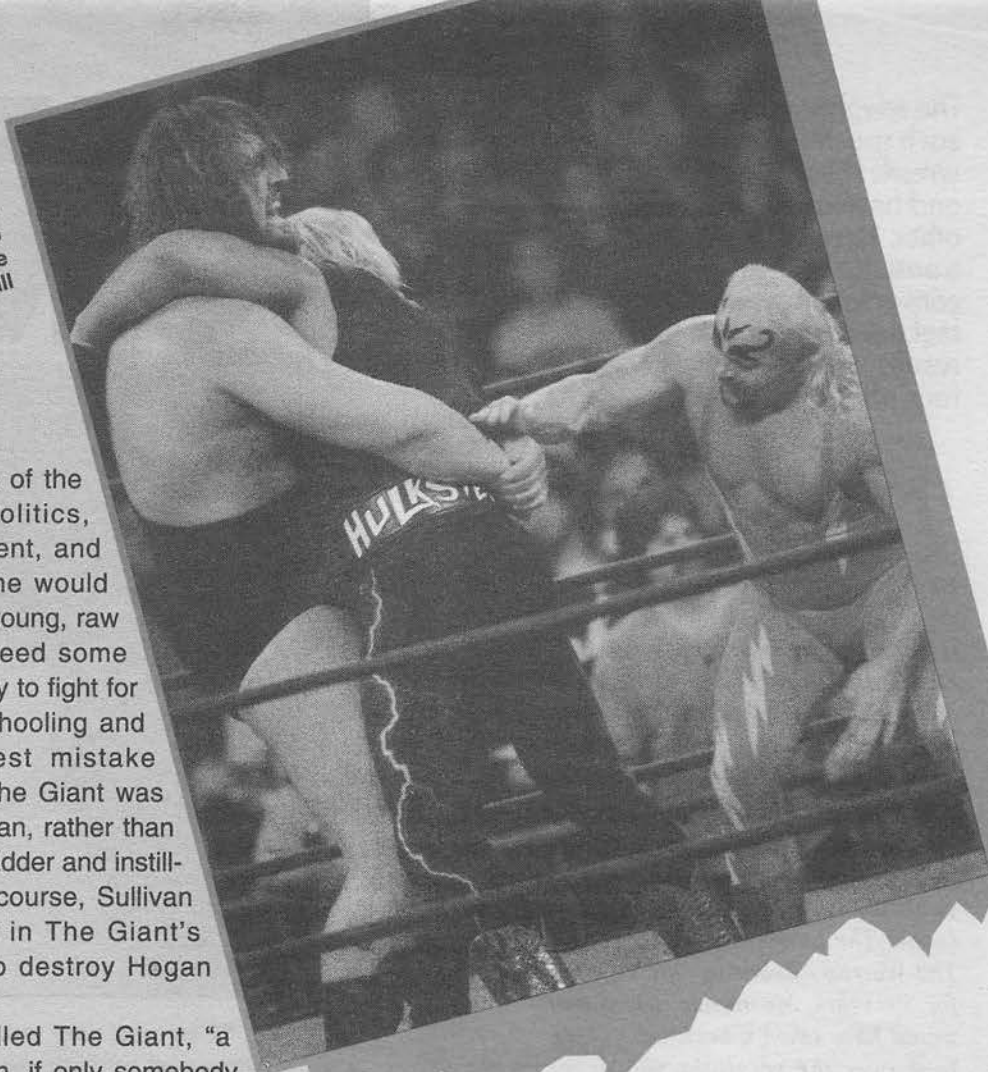
Would Thesz be the right man for the job?

"No, not me," said the all-time great, "but somebody like me, that's for sure."

That person doesn't seem to be out there. Special interests have taken over the sport. Managers don't manage the way they used to. They set agendas, get themselves into feuds, and have wrestlers fight their battles.

That's a waste of any wrestler's talent, especially The Giant's. He's been used as a monster. Somewhere, a wrestler lies within.

If only someone could find him. ☐



It seems like all The Giant has wanted to do since he arrived in WCW is choke-slam any fan is favorite who got in his way. Someone needs to show him that there's more to wrestling than trying to humiliate your arch-rivals.

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

**T**HE ROAD WARRIORS. The Steiners. They are the two dominant tag teams of the past 10 years, with four NWA/WCW World tag team titles, three WWF World tag team titles, and six Pro Wrestling Illustrated Tag Team of the Year awards between them. Other teams have come and gone, but the Warriors and Steiners have been tag team wrestling's standard of excellence.

There was a void in U.S. tag team wrestling over the past two years, as each team disappeared from the scene. The Steiners went to Japan. The Warriors didn't wrestle together for 3½ years. Meanwhile, teams that would have taken a backseat to both took over the spotlight, but never dominated.

Fortunately, but probably not coincidentally, both resurfaced at about the same time and in the same federation. The beneficiary is WCW, which now is the undisputed center of the tag team universe. World tag team champs Sting and Lex Luger, Harlem Heat, The Nasty Boys, and Public Enemy will have a hard time keeping the attention on themselves with these two teams around.

The Warriors wasted no time signaling their return with a victory over The Nasty Boys. Then the Steiners came back and lost their first match to the Warriors. A three-way feud has developed, but it's clear the Warriors and Steiners are more interested in each other than anybody else: They are still the elite. Their egos won't allow them to care about any other team.

You can count on the WCW tag team picture being a tug-o'-war between the Steiners and the

Warriors during the coming 12 months. The Warriors won the first battle, but as Scott Steiner reminded Animal, there are plenty more to come. A war of words was fought on our turf... "One On One."

#### ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL:

What are you doing here, punk? It seems to me like you've got some work to do.

**SCOTT STEINER:** I think we've all got a lot of work to do. The Road Warriors aren't any exception. The last time I checked, you guys weren't wearing any belts except the ones holding up your pants.

**RWA:** That's very funny, but The Legion of Doom's gonna be wearing those gold belts a long time before you ever do. There's room in this federation for The Road Warriors and the

Steiners, but there's not enough belts to go around for all of us. That means you're gonna have to get on line and wait a long time.

**SS:** We're right on line with you, Animal. I think we agree on one thing: Luger and Sting are gonna tumble. It's just a matter of when ...

**RWA:** And who does the tumbling. That's gonna be us, whether you like it or not. Like I said, there ain't enough belts to go around in WCW, and when we're on track, we rule. Nobody's ever stopped The Road Warriors yet ...

**SS:** Hate to burst your bubble, but how many times have you won those belts? I'll tell you: *once*. Know how many times me and my brother have been WCW tag team champions? Three times. Three times. Think about that, Animal!

# ONE ON ONE

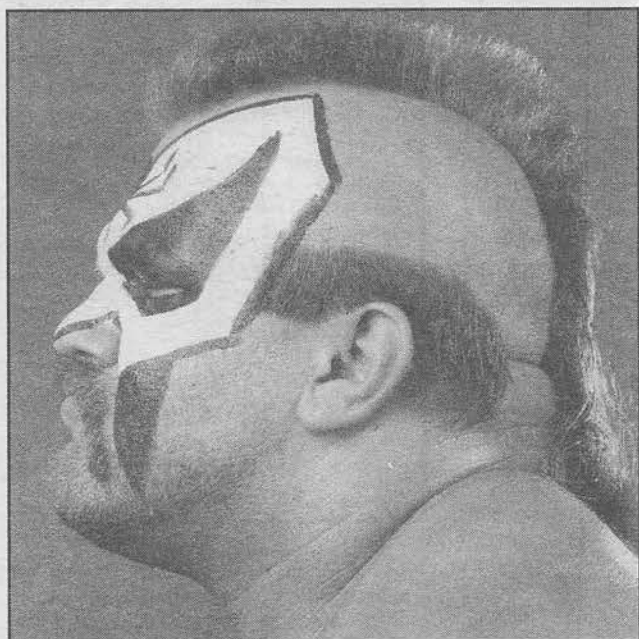


"The only way you could beat us was by hitting us with those spiked shoulder pads ... There's a long way to go in this one, and we'll be the ones smiling at the end!"

—Scott Steiner



# N ONE



**"You guys know how the game is played. You been around long enough that you should be ready for anything at any time. If you're not, then you're stupider than we thought!"**

**—Animal**

**RWA:** Yeah, well you think about this: How many times did you beat The Legion of Doom for the belts? I know the answer to that question: never! How many times have you beaten us in the last month? Never. You came back to town thinking you'd rule the streets just like you did before, but you didn't count on The Road Warriors being there first and getting in your way.

**SS:** We not only counted on it and wanted it, we knew it, and it didn't scare us away. There's one thing about me and my brother ...

**RWA:** Besides that, you're a couple of pansies?

**SS:** I'm gonna ignore that comment, Animal ...

**RWA:** Like you have a choice.

**SS:** I make my own choices, Animal, and there's no way I can dive

through the phone lines to shut you up. Me and my brother never back down from a challenge. We know all about The Road Warriors and, believe it or not, we respect you guys. We'd be fools not to. We know all about your legacy and we respect it. But we don't fear it. A Steiner doesn't fear anything!

**RWA:** You guys don't have the brains to know what to be scared of.

**SS:** What're you gonna do? You come into the ring with those big Futureworld outfits on and think people are supposed to be scared of you. Well, we know your history. Yeah, we respect you, but we know that The Road Warriors have a history of starting big and not getting the job done. That's why me and Rick aren't gonna get down because of one loss. The only way you could beat us was by

hitting us with those spiked shoulder pads. We both know there's a long way to go in this one, and we'll be the ones smiling at the end.

**RWA:** Finished?

**SS:** Yeah, I'm finished, but you guys will be finished soon.

**RWA:** Good, 'cause I've got something to tell you. We're not thinking about the past; we're only thinking about the future, and we came back here to win the belts. It don't matter to us if you or The Nasty Boys or Harlem Heat try to get in our way. Harlem Heat tried to get in our way, but we can deal with them. We know Sting and Luger are afraid of us, but it don't matter. They can run, but they can't hide.

**SS:** Well, when you're through losing to Luger and Sting, we'll be right there to pick up your garbage. You're gonna feel real low, Animal, when you and Hawk are second-best again.

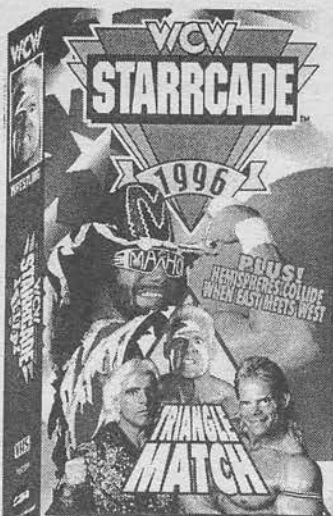
**RWA:** Tell me something, punk: You show me one thing that's happened in the past month that makes you think you can beat us. You haven't beaten us. Results are what counts, not some stupid history you just made up. Results. Wins and losses—any way you can get 'em. So what if we knocked you guys upside the head with our shoulder pads. Me and Hawk do whatever it takes. That's how we survived on the streets of Chicago. You guys know how the game is played. You been around long enough that you should be ready for anything at any time. If you're not, then you're stupider than we thought! We stormed this federation and made it our own. It took four men to beat us at Uncensored. Not two—four! Those same four would've had you for dinner inside of a minute.

**SS:** Nobody's ever had us for dinner, and nobody ever will. You wanna ignore the past? Go ahead, but it'll be at your own risk. Sure, I admit that you guys are bigger than us, but there's never been a tag team like the Steiners ...

**RWA:** Except The Legion of Doom.

**SS:** We'll see about that.

**RWA:** I'm looking forward to it. □



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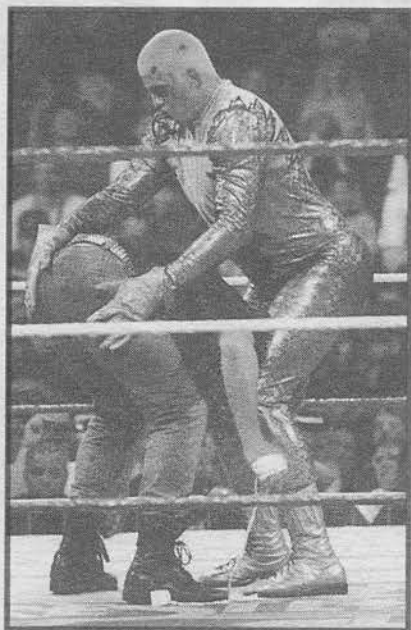
## Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

pointed fingers at Roddy Piper for his involvement in the Hollywood backlot brawl at WrestleMania XII. It was easy to see that Gorilla Monsoon and some other officials disapproved of the Hollywood backlot match between Goldust and then-acting President Piper. But Piper has done more to curb Goldust's disgusting behavior than anyone. No man alive should have to put up with the antics of Goldust, and when you consider that millions of children watch the WWF, I'd say that this kind of nonsense doesn't belong in the ring.

I think the blame for Goldust's behavior should be put where it really belongs—at the top of the corporate WWF heap.

**CATHY ANN SMITH**  
Lancaster, PA



A few WWF officials didn't think Roddy Piper had any business challenging Goldust while he was acting WWF president. But reader Cathy Ann Smith was just glad to see him humiliate Goldust.

### LOST AND FOUND

I was surprised to read that "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin is now a first officer on a commuter service for USAir ("Where Are They Now?" May 1996). Garvin was always one of my favorite wrestlers, and

it was great to finally find out what he's been doing since he left wrestling. It seems like only yesterday he was prancing around the ring in his sequined outfits saying, "It's not my fault!" while his valet, Precious, sprayed the ring with air freshener. In my opinion, he was

always underrated as a wrestler. I wish he, not Ronnie, would have been the Garvin to wear the NWA World heavy-weight title belt back in 1987.

I wish him luck with his career in the airline industry; he deserves it!

**JOAN BITLER**  
Fayetteville, NC □

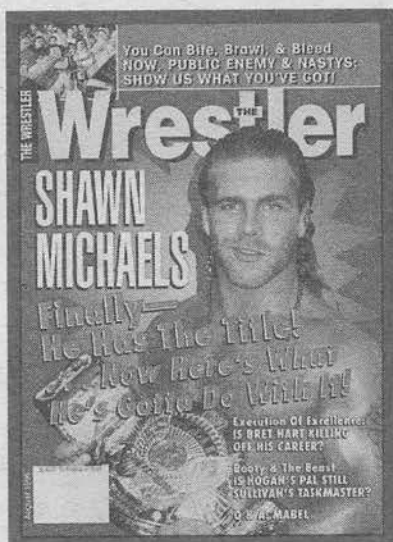


Now that his wrestling career is over, Jimmy Garvin (shown against Rick Morton in 1990) is piloting for USAir. Reader Joan Bitler is glad he has found happiness in his second career.



# This Month In...

## THE Wrestler



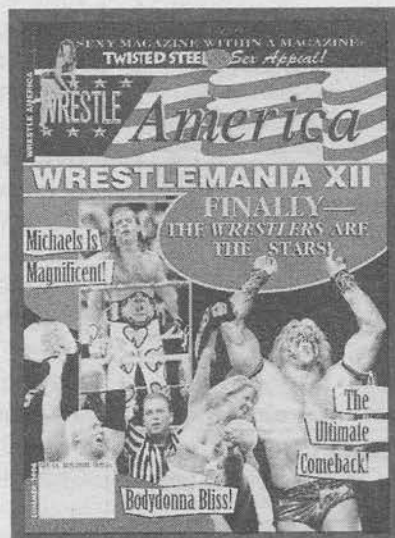
**WRESTLEMANIA XII** was the most glorious of all WrestleManias for **SHAWN MICHAELS**. He won the title he had been pursuing for his entire career. But now that he has the WWF belt, we'll tell him what he must do with it ... This year's WrestleMania wasn't a great one for **BRET HART**. The three-time former WWF champ is talking about cutting back his wrestling schedule. We think he could be killing his career ...

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## On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

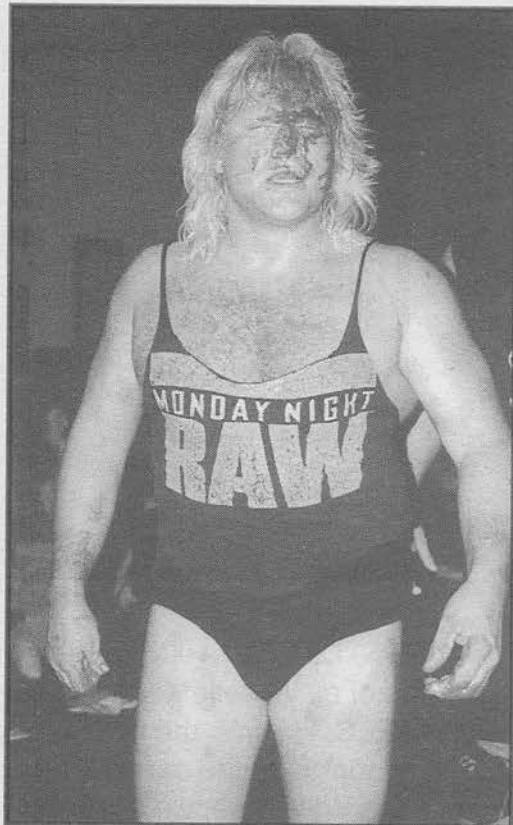
"Why even think about it?" South said. "I can't waste my energy or my time. I'm more interested in what's going on here and now in the PWF."

Perhaps the blase attitude about WrestleMania stemmed from where I was: in Charlotte, North Carolina, the home of Ric Flair and a longtime NWA/WCW hotbed. A lot of these fans have rejected the WWF time and again, and it's hard to say whether that comes from sporting sense or regional pride. To them, the WWF playing in Charlotte is like the University of Kentucky basketball team coming to Charlotte and saying, "This is our home court now." No it isn't, busters.

Then again, the PWF Training Center wasn't exactly packed to the rafters, and the next day in the local papers there was no mention of the card. There was also no mention of WrestleMania. The sports section was packed with basketball news and the opening day of the baseball season. If WrestleMania really was the center of the sporting universe on March 31, the Charlotte papers knew nothing about it.

That's too bad because the sports section of the newspaper is all about dreams, and dreams give men like Shawn Powers, Carolina Dreamer, Star Ryder, George South, Italian Stallion, and Flaming Youth something to shoot for, something to think about. You know Jerry Lawler wasn't at that USWA card in Louisville. He was working in the broadcast booth at WrestleMania.

With that in mind, I phoned Lawler at his hotel in Anaheim and asked him about independent federations running cards on WrestleMania Sunday.



Austin Steele has appeared on WWF Monday Night Raw several times, but he wasn't too worried about the outcome of the Bret Hart-Shawn Michaels "Iron Man" match. He has his own promising career to think about.

"What's the big deal?" Lawler said. "Not everyone can be at WrestleMania."

"Yeah, but how do they dare?" I asked.

"Because some people want to watch live wrestling anytime they can," Lawler said. "I'm sure most of them who didn't see WrestleMania live got the replay."

He got me to wondering how many people in that Carolina crowd did see the replay. I don't think many of the PWF wrestlers did. They have their own business to worry about. □



## Behind the Door

(Continued from page 12)

ly would've been interesting to see what might have happened if Hogan got to Elizabeth that night. What if he slapped her or merely lifted her and dropped her hard on the mat? How would Randy Savage have reacted to this treatment of the woman he once loved and once married.

*Hmmmmmm.* That would have been interesting. Savage and Liz aren't getting along—neither are Liz and Hogan—but I don't think Savage would have liked seeing one of his best friends assaulting her.

I'm glad it didn't happen, even though I suppose WCW rules would have allowed him to do something to either Liz or Woman. You see, the stipulation on the handicap match pitting Hogan against Arn Anderson and Kevin Sullivan said that the winner(s) could have five minutes alone with the loser's manager. If Hogan lost, Arn and Sullivan would have gotten five minutes in the ring with Kimberly. But since Hogan won, he got five minutes with either Liz, Woman, or Jimmy Hart. After forcing Liz and Woman into the ring, he chose Hart.

A lot of people knock Hogan for a lot of reasons, but let's give him credit for choosing Hart in this case, even though any physical contest between them would be a mismatch. Sadly, there are some people in this sport who wouldn't have chosen Hart. My message to federations everywhere is this: Don't even set up situations in which a man is given the opportunity to assault a woman. It's stupid.

\*\*\*

It was a day to remember during a period I'd rather forget. My engagement was on the ropes. I



Tommy Dreamer heard cheers in ECW whenever he piledrived Beulah McGillicutty (who is now his valet) last year, but most promotions would probably look down on this kind of behavior.

was desperate for money and was working as a pickup boy for a charity that turned out to be fraudulent. Creditors were hounding me, and I was working 16 hours a day just to make ends meet. It was a bleak time.

So I answered the ad in the newspaper for a freelance sportswriter, completely unaware of what the sport to be written about was. A few days later I received a call from Peter King, who was then the publisher. A week later I took the writing test—some stuff about anti-American wrestlers and Hacksaw Duggan—and a few days after that, Peter offered me the job.

Within a few months, he made me an associate editor, and 10 years later, a good part of my living is still made by writing wrestling stories.

Ten years on the job seems like a long time and is a long time. It's hard for me to imagine people staying in one job for 25 or 50 years. How do they do it? Since 1986, London Publishing has moved from Rockville Centre, New York, to Ambler, Pennsylvania, and changed owners. Stu Saks, Craig Peters, Bill Apter, Liz Hunter, and Matt Brock are the only holdovers from '86. The sport has changed. The WWF has become WCW. WCW has become the WWF.

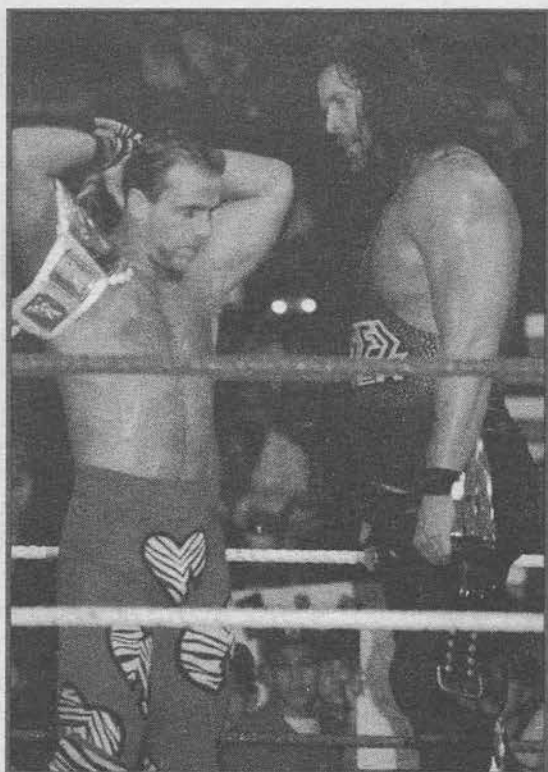
Now by no means is my time here at London Publishing an era for anybody but myself, but apparently there's something to be said about paying your dues. Starting with the September 1996 issue, I finally have a column in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

I'm convinced I would've had a *PWI* column eight years ago if Associate Publisher Craig Peters wasn't such a wise guy. Unfortunately, he has always found it amusing that I didn't have a column in *PWI*. For example, when it came time to assign stories for *PWI*, Craig would often say something like, "Oh, and do your column, too. Oh, I forgot—you don't have a column in *PWI*!"

Well, I do now, even though I no longer have a column in *The Wrestler*. "No Holds Barred" is Steve Anderson's to write now. Just remain patient, Steve. I'm no Matt Brock, and I'm not going to be around forever. The *PWI* column will come. It just might take 10 years. □

# The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



Only a few short months ago, Shawn Michaels and Diesel were the best of pals, but their egos got in the way of their friendship again. I say it's a good thing for Shawn that Diesel's off to WCW.

it a few months later, and Diesel agreed to a deal with WCW.

**CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?** Unfortunately, no. Michaels and Diesel formed one of the finest tandems the WWF has ever seen—Michaels with his scientific skills, Diesel with his courage and brawling ethic—but ego threatened to tear them apart several times in the past, and now it's done the job. The WWF wasn't big enough for the both of them; WCW isn't, either, as if Michaels would ever go there.

The problems with most relationships can be traced back to their genes, and that's the case here, too. Diesel was subservient to Michaels from the very start, and they could never get past that part of their relationship. Michaels

always felt Diesel owed him something, even though he didn't, and Diesel always felt Michaels put himself above the team, which he did, even when Diesel held the WWF belt for a year. They're better off apart. Michaels can hold the WWF World title for a long time, and I have a feeling Diesel's going to teach some WCW has-beens a few lessons.

\*\*\*

**THE UNHAPPY COUPLE:** Steve Williams and Stan Hansen.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Two of the greatest brawlers of all-time got into a little spat a few years back and are still sparring in Japan now.

**CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?** Absolutely. Williams and Hansen have felt like a car with three wheels ever since Bruiser Brody was killed back in 1988 in Puerto Rico. Nothing has been the same since then, other than the realization by Williams and Hansen, in between the fighting, that they're better off as a team. Two American brawlers with so much in common can't afford to be apart, especially in a cutthroat wrestling environment like that in Ja-

pan. Correspondents in Japan say "Dr. Death" has been tearing into Hansen pretty hard, while Hansen's lariat got Williams on a couple of occasions, but the word from Hansen's wife in Borger, Texas, is that the two still speak to each other.

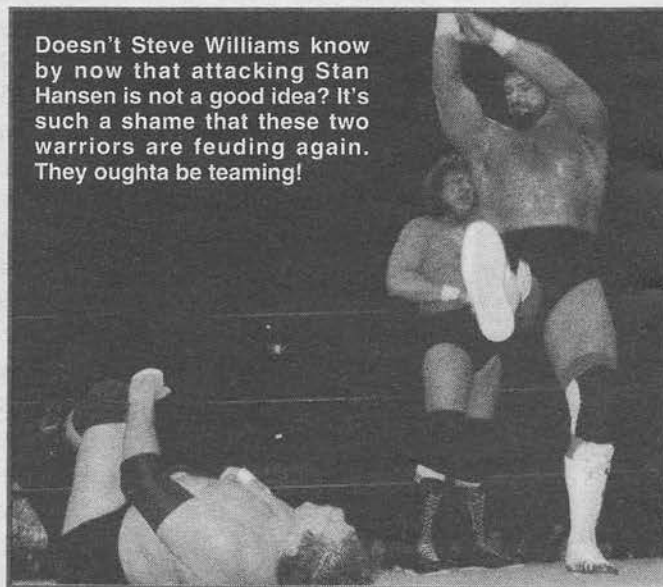
The prayer of all wrestling fans is that they get back together, return to the United States, and take on The Road Warriors, Steiners, and Public Enemy, making the WCW tag team scene more interesting than it's been since the old days of the Crockett Cup.

\*\*\*

**THE UNHAPPY COUPLE:** Bill Apter and his hair.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** He lost it. **CAN THIS MARRIAGE BE SAVED?** The news that Rogaine is now available over the counter was welcomed by millions of balding men around the country, but not by Apter, who's tried it and everything else. Fortunately for Apter, he has a wife who doesn't judge a man by looks or mind alone. □

Doesn't Steve Williams know by now that attacking Stan Hansen is not a good idea? It's such a shame that these two warriors are feuding again. They oughta be teaming!





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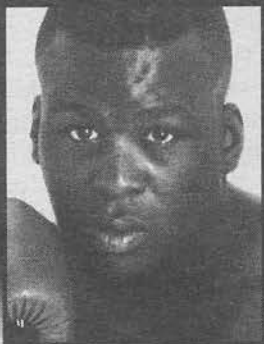
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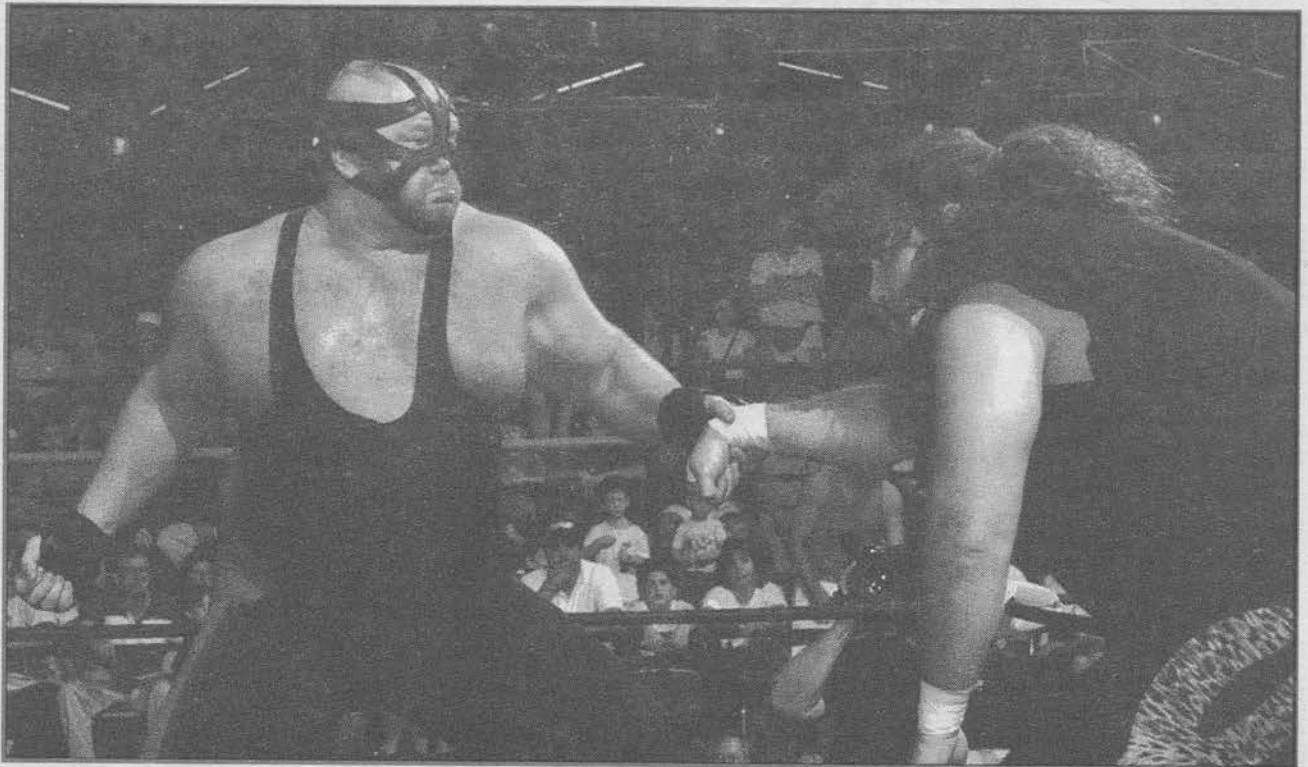
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## On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



Those wrestlers in the WWF who want to see Mankind banned might want to talk to Big Van Vader. He almost singlehandedly eliminated Jack from wrestling in 1993, when both were in WCW.

Center Stage Theater. Cactus Jack, as he was called then, was sidelined for months with amnesia and severe neck pain. He went for revenge upon his return, but usually ended up getting manhandled.

The question is, would Mankind dare try his unusual choke on Big Van Vader? Or would he worry that Vader might simply grab his arm and replay that famous power bomb? If WWF wrestlers really want to get rid of Mankind's choke move, they should get behind Big Van Vader.

Problem is, many WWF wrestlers are afraid to do that because they fear Vader. "They know what happened in WCW, and they know that if Vader gets on a roll, he can be both unstoppable and lethal," said a WWF insider. "I think everybody just assumes that, before long, Mankind and Vader will meet in the ring and one of them will have to go. Most people

are betting on Vader coming out on top, although Mankind's new move could be a factor."

Anybody looking for answers as to who might win the rematch of Vader vs. Mankind might want to consider what Eddie Ellner calls the "stupidity factor." It applies heavily to Mankind, whom Ellner says is too stupid to know when to quit, even when faced with as daunting an opponent as Vader. Ellner commented to me recently that one of the interesting side effects of Mankind's amnesia was that it had so little effect, "because he had so little to forget. People tell me that he was pretty much the same person before and after."

Unfortunately for Mankind, the big difference is that he used to be a much more effective wrestler. The new version complained about violence in ECW, if you can imagine that. This from a man who

used to thrive on barbed-wire and falls-count-anywhere matches.

But Mankind's distaste for violence obviously didn't transfer to the WWF, where he's perfectly content to choke down all of his opponents and tear out his own hair. Recently, according to a WWF higher-up, one of Mankind's opponents requested permission to wear a throat guard into the ring. When the request was denied, the wrestler threatened to hire a lawyer and take the case to court. WWF officials stood by their decision, deeming the throat guard a foreign object that could conceivably be used to conceal other foreign objects. Proving once again that there's nothing like having a high-priced team of lawyers on your side.

But if Mankind succeeds in choking an opponent, the WWF will need all of the rich lawyers it can get. □



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**June 1994**/Stories include: Steamboat, Snuka, Anthony, Bruises, Blayze.  
**August 1994**/Stories include: Piper, Hogan, 911, Freebirds, rulebreakers.  
**September 1994**/Stories include: Nastys, Undertaker, Flair-Steamboat.  
**November 1994**/Stories include: DiBiase, Sting, Diesel, Cactus-Sabu.  
**December 1994**/Stories include: Hogan, Bret, Rottens, Cactus, AAA midgets.  
**January 1995**/Stories include: Vader, Diesel & Razor, Hart, Luger, Sabu.  
**February 1995**/Stories include: Sting, McMahon-Lawler, Woman, Brutus-Hogan.  
**March 1995**/Stories include: Nastys, Ramon, Tasmaniac, 1995 predictions.  
**May 1995**/Stories include: Michaels, Mabel, Diesel, Undertaker, Hogan.  
**June 1995**/Stories include: Hogan-Savage, Austin, Gangstas, Public Enemy.  
**August 1995**/Stories include: Badd, Bigelow, Studd, Bubba-Sting.  
**September 1995**/Stories include: Vicious, Flair-Hogan, Severn, Mabel.  
**November 1995**/Stories include: Hogan, Wright, Tatanka, Backlund-Clinton.  
**December 1995**/Stories include: Undertaker, Vader, Renegade, Gangstas-PE.  
**January 1996**/Stories include: Norton, Vicious, Psicosis-Misterio.  
**February 1996**/Stories include: 1996 predictions, Goldust, Sherri-Parker.  
**April 1996**/Stories include: Diesel, Kid, Savage-Sting-Luger-Hogan.  
**May 1996**/Stories include: Austin, Public Enemy, Vader, Sasaki, weirdness.

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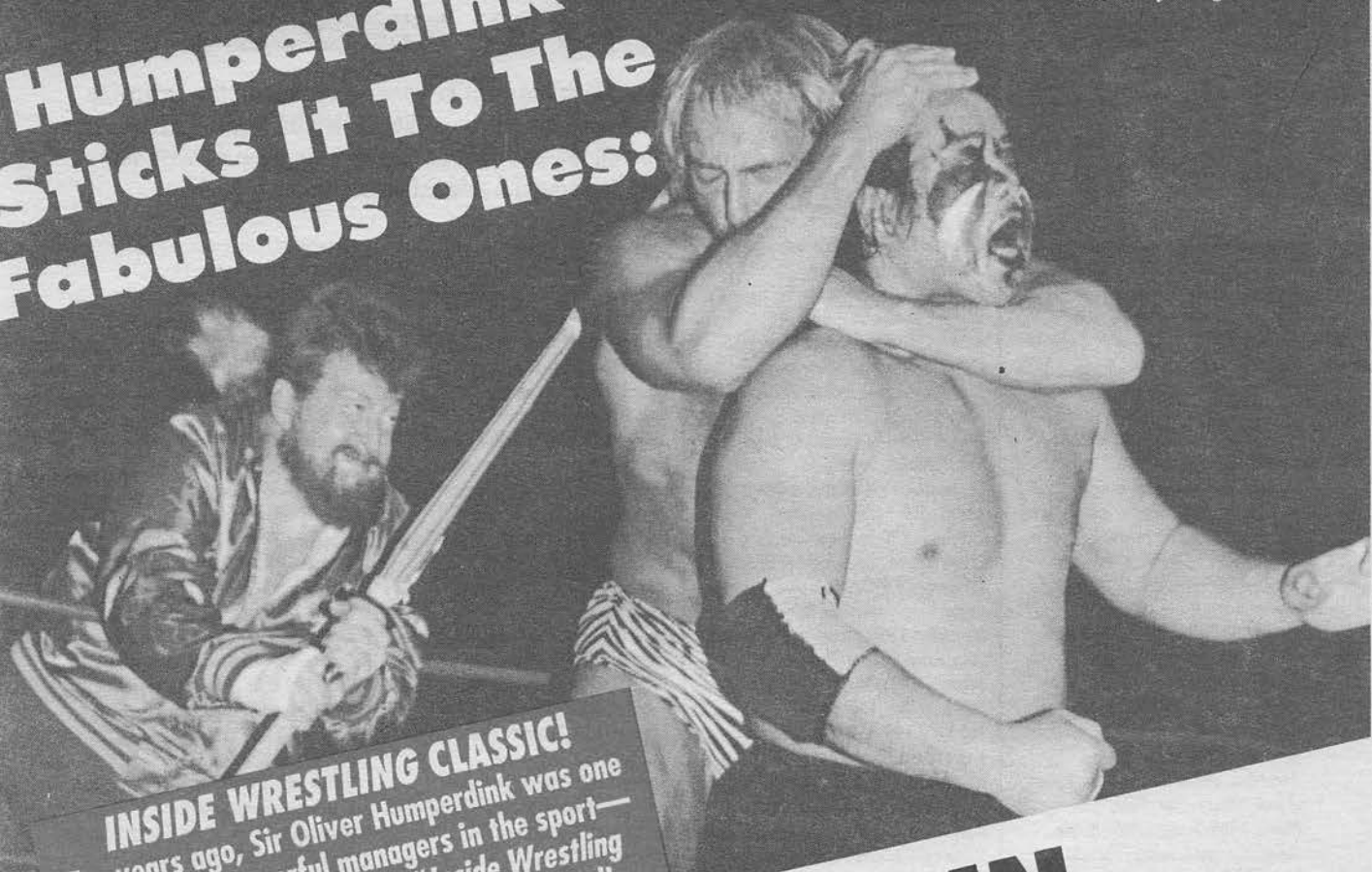
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# Humperdink Sticks It To The Fabulous Ones:

Photos by Craig Peters



**INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC!**  
Ten years ago, Sir Oliver Humperdink was one of the most powerful managers in the sport—and, as this August 1991 "Inside Wrestling Classic" details, not a man to be scorned!

# "I'LL BEAT THEM IN THE RING OR I'LL BEAT THEM IN COURT!"

---

***In seeking revenge  
against The Fabulous  
Ones, the wily Sir Oliver  
Humperdink has left  
no stone unturned***

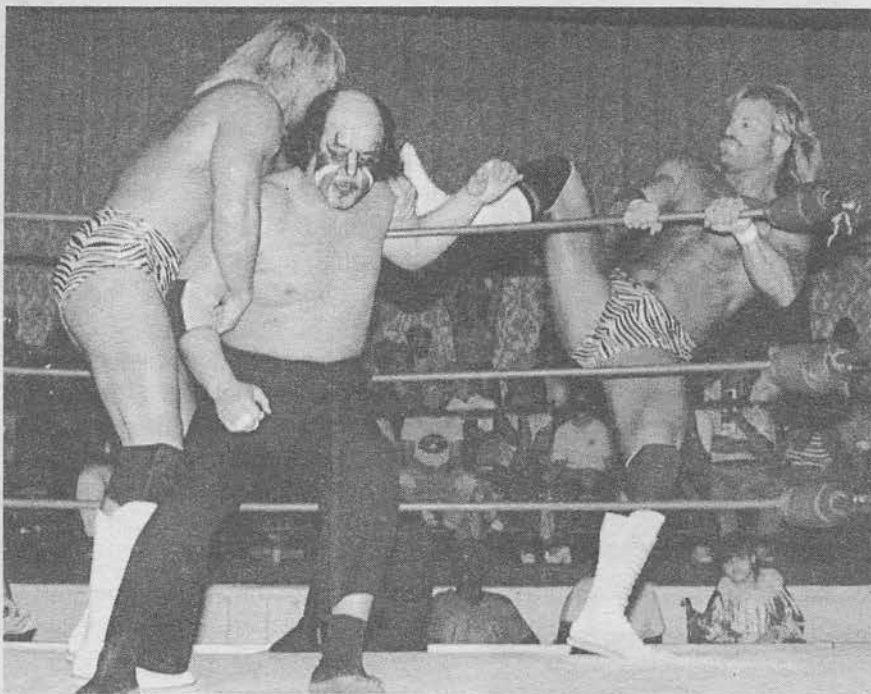
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**T**HIRTY YEARS BEHIND the bench convinced Judge Quentzel he had heard them all, but this oversized leprechaun ranting and raving in front of his judicial pew caused him to reconsider. The man had barged past the court guards, brushed aside the bailiff, the defendant about to be sentenced, and began a harangue that was barely intelligible.

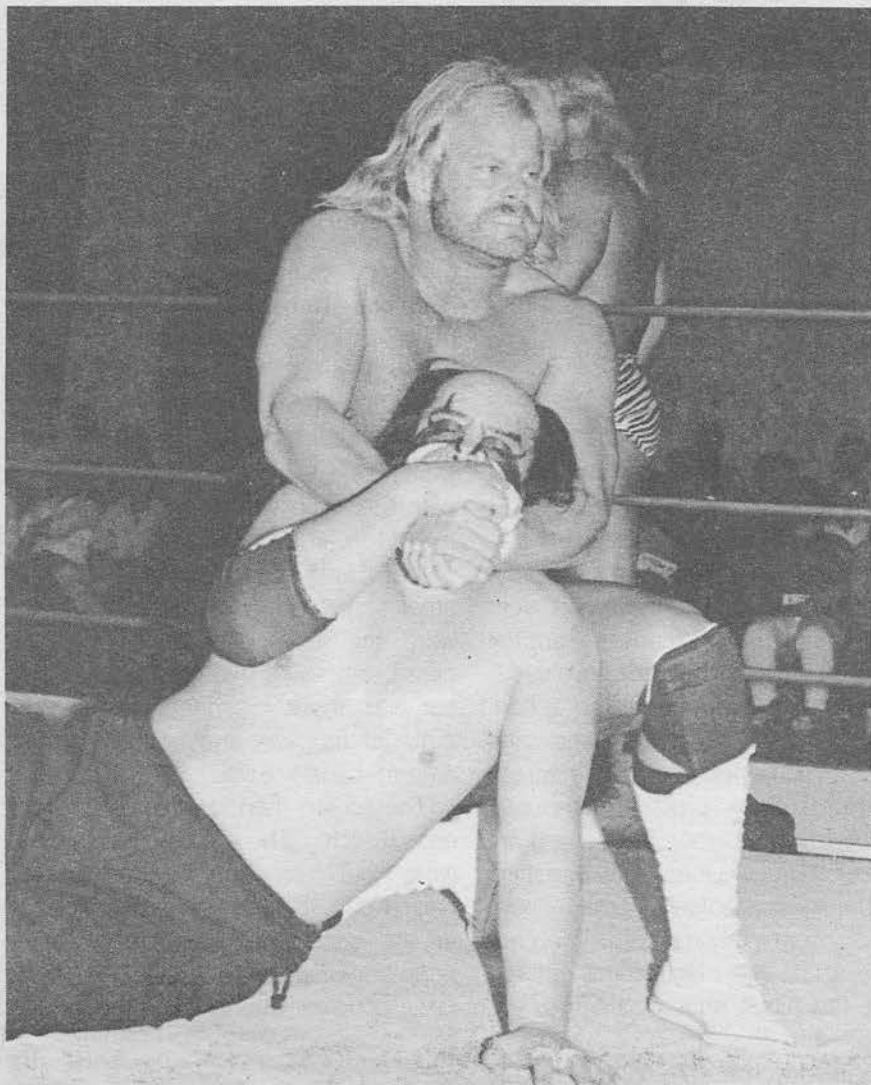
"Your lordship, there is a matter of dire import . . ."

For a moment all was silent. The defendant, guilty of two counts of mail fraud, shifted nervously, hoping the interruption wouldn't anger the judge. His worries proved groundless. The judge had spent the morning in traffic court and welcomed the diversion. He waved away the guards who had already





Steve Keirn drags Kendo Nagasaki to his corner, where Stan Lane kicks him on the side of the head (above). Sir Oliver Humperdink claims to have taught The Fabulous Ones everything they know about breaking the rules. Lane applies a legal chinlock (below).



drawn their pistols.

"What seems to be the problem, friend?" he asked of Sir Oliver Humperdink.

"Your lordship, I'm here to sue. I've come to sue The Fabulous Ones."

This guy is crackers, thought the judge, but was taken by his look. A cross between a Vegas lounge lizard, a pirate, and a high school football coach. Maybe this'll be something to tell the boys at Hurdley's after hours. God knows he hadn't a worthwhile story in months. "You can't simply walk into court and sue someone. You must contact an attorney. There are papers to be filed. Subpoenas to be sent. Surely a man like yourself is aware of the nuances of the judicial system."

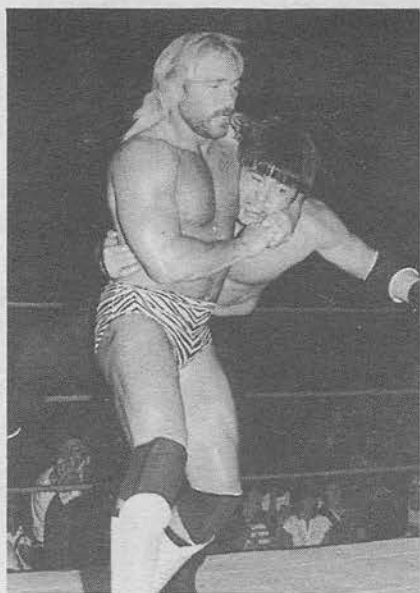
"Ah, your Honor, I am. But no attorney would listen to my case. They claim I haven't a leg to stand on. I come here as a last resort. Should the legal avenues prove clogged, I'll have no choice but to extract my payment in *flesh and blood*."

The judge was enjoying this. He felt like Harry Anderson on *Night Court*. The boys at Hurdley's would eat this one up. "Far be it from me to incite violence and bloodshed," he told the squat manager. "Tell the court your story, man. Tell it all."

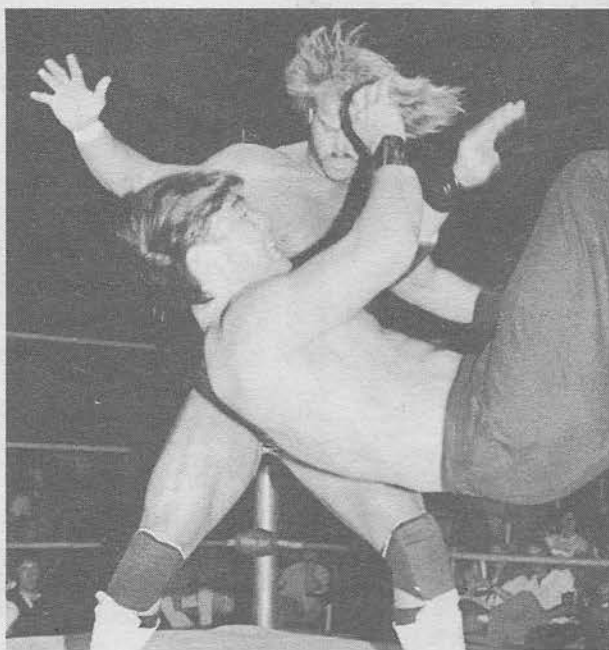
Humperdink and the mail frauder exchanged glances. The felon took a step backward and relinquished the floor to the manager. "Go for it, man," he said. "I'm in no hurry."

"Thank you sir," Humperdink said, gave an awkward bow, and faced the judge. "Your Grace, if the court will indulge, I would like to introduce some videotape to the proceedings. It will prove conclusively the strength of my argument."

Perhaps he should call the boys from Hurdley's and have them come straight here. They'd never believe this. "Let this gentleman's videotapes be introduced as exhibit



Grabbing the ropes for leverage, Nagasaki plants his foot into Keirn's throat (above). Keirn keeps The White Ninja off-balance with a headlock (top right). A chop by Lane turns the martial artist horizontal (right). While The Fabulous Ones have become more aggressive lately and, in fact, are breaking the rules in Texas, they show no signs of being influenced by Humperdink in any sense.



A," the judge announced in mock seriousness.

Humperdink issued a short, shrill whistle. The courtroom doors burst open again. In paraded Kendo Nagasaki and The White Ninja, dressed traditionally in Oriental garb and lugging a video projector and screen. Ignoring the astonished stares of the courtroom, the two fearsome martial artists assembled the equipment. The judge pulled a phone from under the bench and quickly dialed a number. "I don't care if he *is* pitching a no-hitter. Get down here. *Now!*" "Your Excellency, if you will, The White Ninja and Kendo Nagasaki,"

Humperdink said, introducing his men. The two wrestlers bowed deferentially. "Hopefully, this matter can be settled equitably in your court and these fearless samurai will not have to become involved."

The projector whirled into action. Still images of Stan Lane and Steve Keirn appeared on the screen as Humperdink picked up the narrative. "These, your Eminence, are The Fabulous Ones. Pro wrestlers of the most despicable order. These clips were taken from matches fought last year. Notice the pandering, the nitwit relationship they enjoyed with the fans."

The view on the screen cut to

Keirn and Lane dancing with fans before a match. Lane kissed a baby. Keirn hugged a young girl. The scene shifted to mat action later on that evening between The Fab Ones and The Freebirds. As Keirn waived to the crowd, Terry Gordy came up from behind and buried him with a vicious roundhouse.

"You're watching two careers going nowhere. While The Fabulous Ones enjoyed a meaningless popularity among dim-lighted fans, their careers were as stagnant as New Jersey river water. They spent their nights getting beaten up."

The judge assumed the tones of his profession. "Is there a relevance to all this, sir?" he said. "The court's time is most valuable." The doors to the courtroom opened a third time. A man slipped in unnoticed, and silently took a seat.

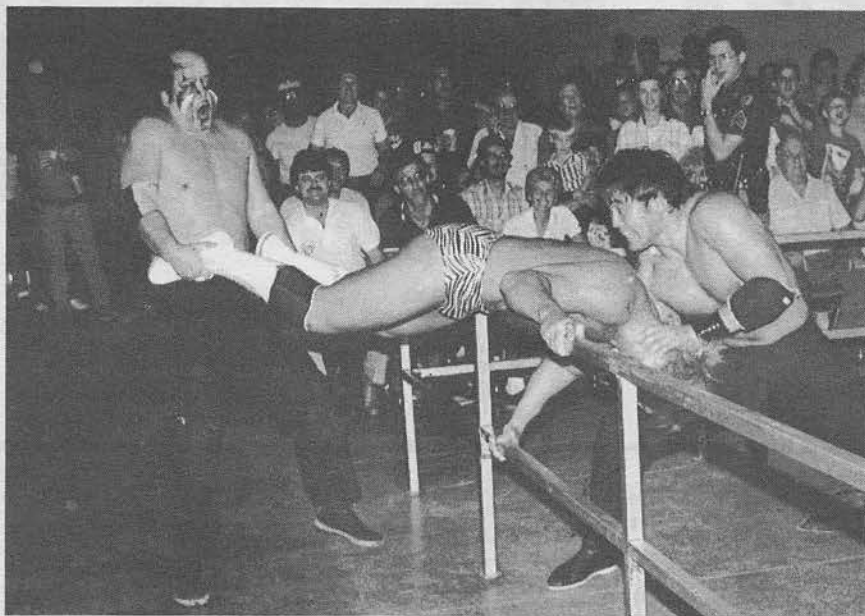
"Ah, most certainly, your Omnipotence, there is deadly relevance. Watch."

The screen showed the anonymous neatness of a hotel suite. Sitting across from Humperdink, visibly uncomfortable, were The Fabulous Ones. Humperdink did most of the talking. "I know boys, I know. The fall from grace may appear distasteful at first, but you have to decide for yourself: Do you want to be winners or don't you? I can make you winners. I guarantee it. And I can do it in three weeks."

Keirn and Lane glanced at each other. They stood up and filed toward the hotel door. Keirn whispered something into Humperdink's ear and shook his hand. Humperdink slung an affectionate arm around Lane's back.

The screen then showed a different match. The Fabulous Ones were double-teaming Hector Guerrero. Keirn ignored the vilifications of the crowd and pummeled the popular Hispanic mercilessly. As Lane covered Guerrero for the pin, the picture froze.





A police officer witnesses the Orientals' illegal assault on Keirn outside the ring but is powerless to act. That is the referee's responsibility.

"Your Reverence, you'll notice a certain difference in style between The Fab Ones of 1985 and the revamped model currently wrestling. Basically, it boils down to this: The Fab Ones a year ago couldn't win if their opponents didn't show up. Their wages were at a minimum. They were helpless lambs in slaughter. Today's edition are winners. They have commercial endorsements. They earn upwards of six figures a year. *And I am responsible.* Those cretins soaked me for my expertise and then voided our contract. The left me high and dry."

"Wasn't anything written down?" the judge felt moved to ask.

"Your Graceship, I am an honorable man. My word is my bond."

"You're full of crap, Humperdink," cried the man who had slipped quietly into the courtroom. That man was me. Besides being Arnie Quentzel's drinking buddy, I'm also Matt Brock, wrestling reporter. And I had heard quite enough. "You had nothing to do with The Fabulous Ones changing styles, you lying vermin." I was hot. I had left a chilled Rheingold

and 6 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings of no-hit ball for this. The whole thing stunk. Humperdink had as much to do with the Fab One's change in style as I did. "Get this guy the hell out of your courtroom, Arnie, and meet me at Hurdley's."

The judge gave me one of those "How do I get myself into these" looks and adjourned the courtroom. The convicted mail felon, his fate uncertain for another 24 hours, shuffled back to his holding cell.

Humperdink grabbed me as I was leaving. "I tried to resolve this peacefully, hotshot. Whatever blood comes now is on your hands. Remember that."

I twisted away from his grimy paws, making a mental note to wash. A guy like Humperdink gives you indigestion on an empty stomach. He was out for a cheap buck and tried to take advantage of a close friend. Having failed in that, he will now send his Oriental henchmen out for revenge. I hope The Fabulous Ones are prepared. They're new at this rulebreaking game and could be in big trouble.

Sometimes this business can make you sick. ☐

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# GIANT



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## OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

## 1—SHAWN MICHAELS

(1) WWF World champion

## 2—THE GIANT

(8) WCW World champion

## 3—DIESEL

(-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

## 4—STING

(2) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

## 5—THE UNDERTAKER

(3) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

## 6—LEX LUGER

(12) WCW TV champion

## 7—BIG VAN VADER

(15) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

## 8—JEFF JARRETT

(-) USWA heavyweight champion

## 9—KONNAN

(5) U.S. heavyweight champion

## 10—RAVEN

(11) ECW heavyweight champion

## 11—HULK HOGAN

(9) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

## 12—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(-) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

## 13—GOLDUST

(7) WWF Intercontinental champion

## 14—RIC FLAIR

(6) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

## 15—2 COLD SCORPIO

(-) ECW TV champion

## WCW

## 1—THE GIANT

(5) 430, parts unknown

## 2—KONNAN

(2) 237, Mexico City, Mexico

## 3—STING

(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA

## 4—LEX LUGER

(6) 265, Chicago, IL

## 5—HULK HOGAN

(4) 275, Venice Beach, CA

## 6—RIC FLAIR

(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN

## 7—RANDY SAVAGE

(7) 237, Sarasota, FL

## 8—HACKSAW DUGGAN

(15) 280, Glens Falls, NY

## 9—BOOTY MAN

(10) 273, San Francisco, CA

## 10—EDDY GUERRERO

(9) 221, Los Angeles, CA

## 11—MARCUS BAGWELL

(-) 240, Marietta, GA

## 12—CHRIS BENOIT

(13) 218, Edmonton, Alberta

## 13—ARN ANDERSON

(11) 249, Minneapolis, MN

## 14—ALEX WRIGHT

(12) 222, Berlin, Germany

## 15—BRAD ARMSTRONG

(-) 226, Marietta, GA

## WWF

## 1—SHAWN MICHAELS

(1) 234, San Antonio, TX

## 2—GOLDUST

(2) 254, Austin, TX

## 3—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(5) 273, Scottsdale, AZ

## 4—THE UNDERTAKER

(4) 328, parts unknown

## 5—BIG VAN VADER

(6) 450, Denver, CO

## 6—DIESEL

(8) 356, Las Vegas, NV

## 7—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(-) 245, Leeds, England

## 8—SAVIO VEGA

(12) 260, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico

## 9—STEVE AUSTIN

(7) 241, Dallas, TX

## 10—RAZOR RAMON

(-) 290, Miami, FL

## 11—AHMED JOHNSON

(11) 255, Pearl River, MS

## 12—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(14) 279, Greenwich, CT

## 13—MANKIND

(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM

## 14—OWEN HART

(13) 227, Calgary, Alberta

## 15—JAKE ROBERTS

(-) 253, Stone Mountain, GA

## MOST POPULAR

## 1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

## 2—STING

Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

## 3—SHAWN MICHAELS

Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

## 4—THE UNDERTAKER

Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

## 5—HULK HOGAN

Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

## 6—LEX LUGER

Last issue: unrated

## 7—SAVIO VEGA

Last issue: unrated

## 8—AHMED JOHNSON

Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

## 9—RANDY SAVAGE

Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular

## 10—EDDY GUERRERO

Last issue: No. 13 Most Popular

## 11—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: unrated

## 12—MARC MERO

Last issue: unrated

## 13—TOMMY DREAMER

Last issue: No. 14 Most Popular

## 14—JESSE JAMES ARMSTRONG

Last issue: unrated

## 15—SHANE DOUGLAS

Last issue: unrated

## MOST HATED

## 1—GOLDUST

Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

## 2—THE GIANT

Last issue: unrated

## 3—BIG VAN VADER

Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

## 4—DAVEY BOY SMITH

Last issue: unrated

## 5—MANKIND

Last issue: No. 13 Most Hated

## 6—RIC FLAIR

Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

## 7—STEVE AUSTIN

Last issue: No. 15 Most Hated

## 8—DIESEL

Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

## 9—KEVIN SULLIVAN

Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

## 10—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

## 11—JEFF JARRETT

Last issue: unrated

## 12—RAVEN

Last issue: No. 14 Most Hated

## 13—MABEL

Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

## 14—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

Last issue: No. 14 Most Popular

## 15—ARN ANDERSON

Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

## TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

## 1—SKIP &amp; ZIP

(1) WWF World tag team champions

## 2—LEX LUGER &amp; STING

(2) WCW World tag team champions

## 3—HENRY &amp; PHINEAS GODWINN

(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

## 4—THE ROAD WARRIORS

(4) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

## 5—OWEN HART &amp; DAVEY BOY SMITH

(11) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

## 6—RICK &amp; SCOTT STEINER

(6) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

## 7—THE NASTY BOYS

(8) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

## 8—THE ELIMINATORS

(9) ECW tag team champions

## 9—THE CYBERPUNKS

(5) USWA tag team champions

## 10—THE GANGSTAS

(-) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

## 11—MARCUS BAGWELL &amp; SCOTTY RIGGS

(10) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title

## 12—MEN ON A MISSION

(15) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

## 13—HARLEM HEAT

(7) No. 5 contenders: WCW World tag title

## 14—THE BUSHWHACKERS

(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

## 15—THE BRUISE BROTHERS

(-) No. 2 contenders: ECW tag title



*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.*

*For period ended May 1, 1996*

## ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

**ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** JUN AKIYAMA & TAKAO OMORI  
(January 29, 1995; from Bobby Fulton & Tommy Rogers; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** YOSHINARI OGAWA  
(September 3, 1995; from Dan Kroffat; Tokyo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION:** YUMIKO HOTTA  
(September 24, 1995; from Toshiyo Yamada; Kawasaki, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION:** DYNAMITE KANSAI  
(August 30, 1995; from Aja Kong; Osaka, Japan)

**ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** AKIRA HOKUTO & MIMA SHIMODA  
(September 24, 1995; from Kyoko Inoue & Takako Inoue; Kawasaki, Japan)

**ALL-STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** THE BLACK ASSASSIN  
(October 21, 1995; from Billy Orderly; Fountain City, TN)

**ALL-STATE WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** FELIX & LAWRENCE HUTTON  
(March 7, 1996; from Tony Prichard & Lone Star; Alcoa, TN)

**AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** T. RANTULA  
(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

**AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** JOHNNY GRAHAM  
(October 14, 1995; from Lord Zoltan; Lewistown, PA)

**ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** RAVEN  
(January 27, 1996; from The Sandman; Philadelphia, PA)

**ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** THE ELIMINATORS  
(February 3, 1996; from Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck; Rego Park, NY)

**ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION:** 2 COLD SCORPIO  
(January 5, 1996; from Mikey Whipwreck; Philadelphia, PA)

**IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** SHINYA HASHIMOTO  
(April 29, 1996; from Nobuhiko Takada; Tokyo, Japan)

**IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** **The GREAT SASUKE**  
(April 29, 1996; from Jushin Liger; Tokyo, Japan)

**MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** TITLE VACANT  
(Last held by Al Snow)

**MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** LOS RUDOS  
(September 9, 1995; from Otis Apollo & Scott D'Amore; Taylor, MI)

**NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** DAN SEVERN  
(February 24, 1995; from Chris Candido; Erlanger, KY)

**NWA NORTH AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** TOMMY CAIRO  
(July 15, 1995; beat Devon Storm in tournament final; Williamstown, NJ)

**NORTH AMERICAN ALL-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** THE COLORADO KID  
(April 10, 1995; from Cactus Jack; Jonesboro, AR)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION:** MITSU HARU MISAWA  
(May 26, 1995; from Stan Hansen; Sapporo, Japan)

**PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** TOSHI AKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE  
(February 20, 1996; from Gary Albright & Stan Hansen; Morioka, Japan)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** GEORGE SOUTH  
(March 30, 1996; beat Italian Stallion in tournament final; Greer, SC)

**PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** TERRY AUSTIN & AUSTIN STEELE  
(April 6, 1996; from Baby Huey & Italian Stallion; Gaffney, SC)

**TRI-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** CAMERON LONE WOLF  
(November 3, 1995; from Jimmy Sharpe; Rossville, GA)

**TRI-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** KEITH HART & CHRIS STEELHEART  
(January 6, 1995; from Roger Sartin & Jimmy Sharpe; Rossville, GA)

**USWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** JEFF JARRETT  
(April 20, 1996; from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

**USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION:** MABEL  
(March 16, 1996; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

**USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** THE CYBERPUNKS  
(March 25, 1996; from Doug Gilbert & Tommy Rich; Memphis, TN)

**WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION:** LEX LUGER  
(March 6, 1996; from Johnny B. Badd; Macon, GA)

**WCW U.S. CHAMPION:** KONNAN  
(January 29, 1996; from One Man Gang; Canton, OH)

**WCW WORLD CHAMPION:** **THE GIANT**  
(April 22, 1996; from Ric Flair; Albany, GA)

**WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** LEX LUGER & STING  
(January 22, 1996; from Harlem Heat; Las Vegas, NV)

**WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:** JIM McPHERSON  
(October 7, 1995; from Chris Evans; Clementon, NJ)

**WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** BAD ATTITUDE  
(June 3, 1995; from Doomsday Express; Clementon, NJ)

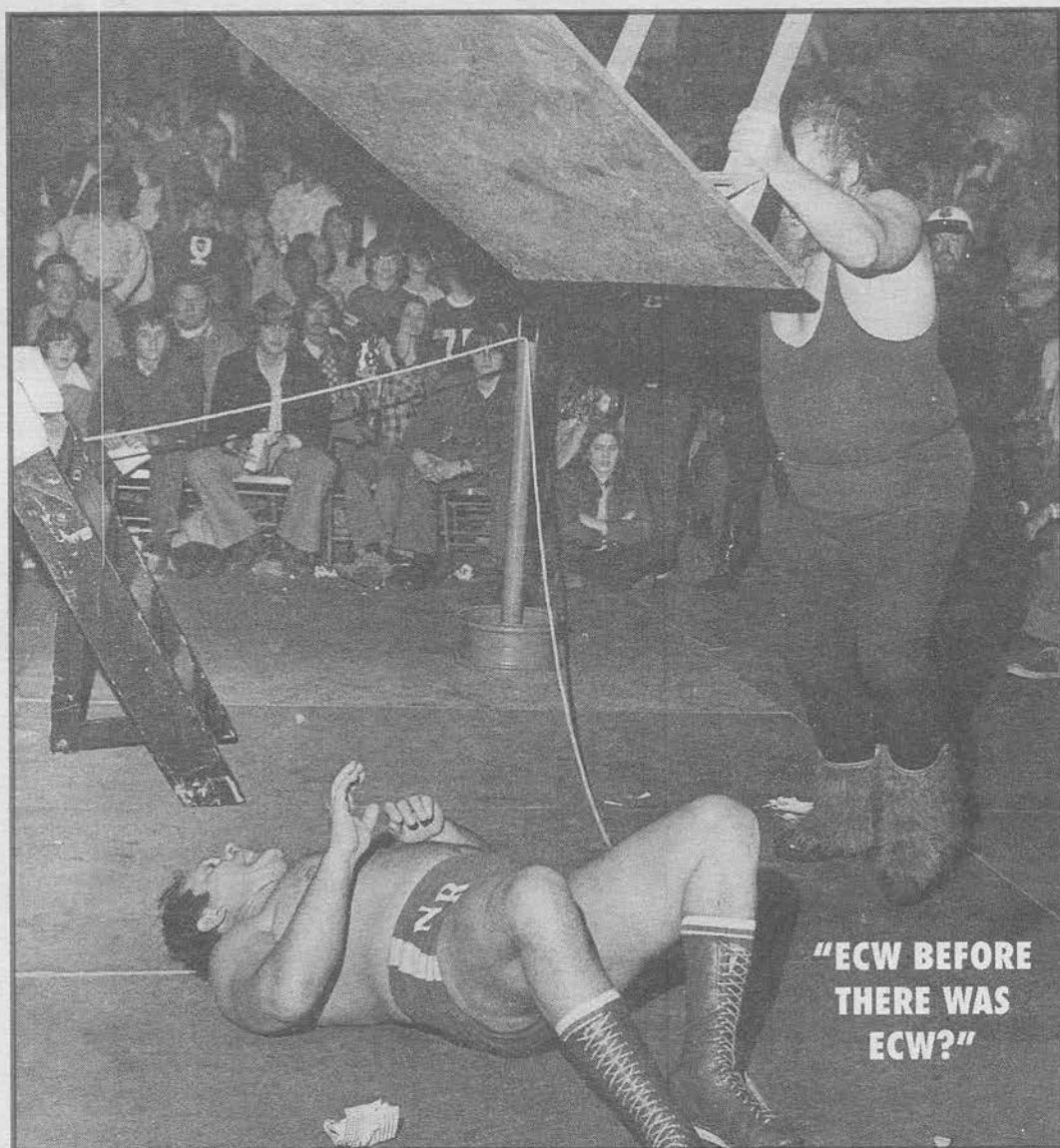
**WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION:** GOLDUST  
(April 1, 1996; title previously held up; San Bernardino, CA)

**WWF WORLD CHAMPION:** SHAWN MICHAELS  
(March 31, 1996; from Bret Hart; Anaheim, CA)

**WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:** SKIP & ZIP  
(March 31, 1996; beat Henry & Phineas Godwinn in tournament final; Anaheim, CA)

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

## This Month In Wrestling History



**"ECW BEFORE  
THERE WAS  
ECW?"**

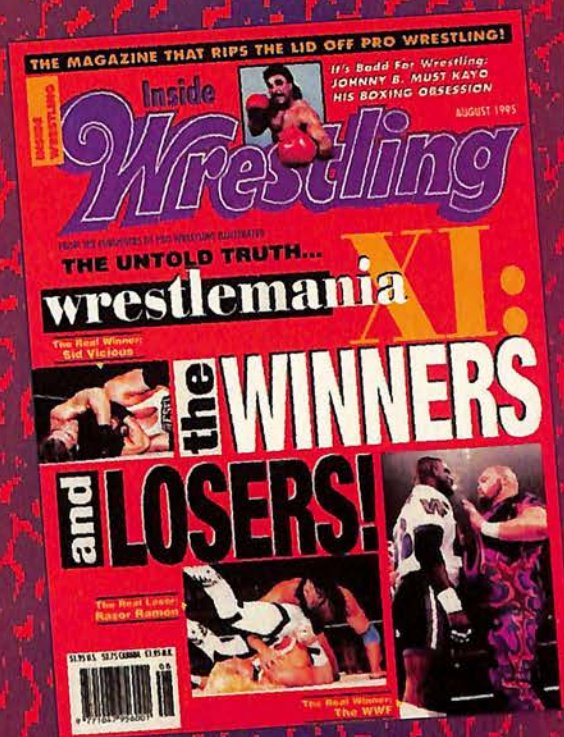
### **ERIC THE RED vs. NELSON ROYAL** **August 1976**

You can't say Sabu ... or The Sandman ... or Raven ... or Tommy Dreamer would not have made it in wrestling in the 1970s. Sure, there was no ECW until 1992, but those four ultraviolent ECW maniacs weren't the first wrestlers to figure out that wooden tables make darn good weapons. Eric the Red (or Eric the Animal, as he was also known) might not have been able to outwrestle Nelson Royal, but he knew what his own strengths were. If Eric were alive today, we think he'd be a big ECW fan.



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